PALESTINE POLICE OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

EDITOR
E. P. HORNE, B.E.M., 11 Dolphin Place, Barton on Sea
New Milton, Hampshire BH25 7DR Tel: New Milton (0425) 618306

NEWSLETTER

No. 159 PUBLISHED QUARTERLY JUNE 1990

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SPECIAL NOTE

To all Branch Secretaries and other contributors:

Material for the September 1990 issue of the News Letter should be in the hands of the Editor by 10th July, 1990.

NOTICE

Mr Terry Thompson of 8 Hoadswood Road, Hastings, East Sussex is gathering background information on the late Fl./Lt. Richard Playne Stevens D.S.O., D.F.C. and Bar, a former night fighter pilot in 151 Squadron, Royal Air Force at Wittering during 1941 but who was shot down and killed over Holland in December of that year. It so happens that from June 1932 until July 1936, Stevens was a British Constable in Palestine. It would be nice if we could quote his number but it cannot be traced in the five miles of paper that surrounds us. The thing is, Mr Thompson's letter was on the notepaper of The Tangmere Military Aviation Museum Trust and clearly the museum authorities wish to know as much as they can about a hero who is credited with 13½ "kills" against enemy aeroplanes. So do we as a matter of fact. So if anyone remembers Stevens and served in his squad or at his station, please let Mr Thompson know, so as to assist him in his useful task, with a copy to this editor, so that we also have a record. Thanks.

Ted Horne

NOTICE

The B.B.C.2 Timewatch programme which is a television history magazine has agreed to make a programme about the Arab Revolt in Palestine 1936-1939 and researchers are seeking to keep a balance to the programme and would thus appreciate the guidance of some Palestine Policemen who were actively engaged in The Arab Troubles of that period. If anyone feels he has a contribution to make would he please write to:– Mr Charlie Smith, B.B.C. (South and East), Elstree Centre, Clarendon Road, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire WD6 1JF and mark the envelope Room N611. It will be appreciated that members offer their services as individuals and that the O.C.A. is not involved. Following your letter, someone will make contact with a view to an initial interview and then to take things from there.

The Editor

Photograph on front cover.
Mustashfa Police Station, Jerusalem. Ron Burdon on steps. Circa 1936.

PALESTINE POLICE OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT – GENERAL FUND

(for the year ended 31st January 1990)

1989	Expenditure	
347	Stock of Tapes	276.83
210	Roll of Honour – Stock	– –
	Purchases	– –
10015	Newsletter	8690.00
246	Printing and Stationery	474.71
–	Computer Maintenance	716.25
1842	Postage	1983.19
167	Telephone	135.00
944	Travelling Expenses	708.00
125	Accountants and Auditors Charges	135.00
605	General Expenses	441.23
50	Donations	100.00
55	Bank Charges	72.72
153	Loss on Annual Dinner	121.36
665	Commonwealth War Graves Commission	– –
40	Depreciation – Office Equipment	40.00
–	Balance – Surplus carried down	3408.79
4644	Balance brought down	– –
3	Taxation	– –
3231	Balance carried to Balance Sheet	6639.63
£ 7878		6639.63

1989	Income	
8414	Subscriptions and Donations	14199.03
500	Legacy	2000.00
113	Sales of Tapes	276.83
277	Stock of Tapes	– –
204	Roll of Honour – Sales	– –
520	Building Society Interest	502.22
285	Newsletter Advertising	180.00
–	Membership Lists	145.00
712	Profit on Sweepstake	– –
4644	Balance – Deficiency carried down	– –
15669		£17303.08
–	Balance brought down	3408.79
7878	Balance brought forward	3230.84
£ 7878		£ 6639.63

BALANCE SHEET
(as at 31st January 1990)

1989	Liabilities		
3231	Accumulated Fund		6639.63
	Creditors:–		
351	Expenses		135.00
778	Subscriptions in Advance		1536.00
410	Benevolent Fund		– –
£4770			£8310.63

1989	Assets		
10	Sports, Trophies and Medals	112.40	
	Depreciation to date	102.40	10.00
70	Office Equipment	602.02	
	Depreciation to date	572.02	30.00
–			
	Debtor – Benevolent Fund		805.63
277	Trading Stock		– –
755	Payment in Advance		765.00
3421	Alliance & Leicester Building Society		6400.00
237	Cash at Bank		270.05
–	Cash in Hand		29.95
£4770			£8310.63

AUDITOR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS

I have examined the Accounts and Balance Sheet with the books and vouchers and having received all the information and explanations I have required, report that the said Accounts and Balance Sheet are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of affairs by 31st January 1990 according to the best of the information and explanations given to me and as shown by the books.

66 Abbots Gardens
East Finchley
London N2 0JH

G. H. BYFIELD
Certified Accountant
5 March 1990

PALESTINE POLICE OLD COMRADES' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION
(Registered Charity No. 282492)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
(for the year ended 31st January 1990)

1989	Expenditure	
3096	Trading – Stock	2406.74
1236	Purchases	2840.09
3044	"A Job Well Done" – Stock	2529.26
97	Postage	59.67
2593	Grants and Donations	2708.22
373	Printing and Stationery	238.59
110	Accountants and Auditors Charges	120.00
291	Postage and Telephone	377.06
1392	Travelling Expenses	1613.62
5	General Expenses	6.80
314	Bad debt	– –
–	Maintenance of Office Equipment	– –
257	Depreciation – Office Equipment	461.30
£12808		£14501.05

1989	Income	
2331	Trading – Sales	2094.13
2407	Stock	3314.01
665	"A Job Well Done" – Sales	329.05
2529	Stock	2686.88
1152	Donations	962.23
2762	Interest – National Savings Investment Account	2919.46
–	Building Society	7.07
14	Tax Refund	16.33
948	Balance – Deficiency carried to Balance Sheet	2171.89
£12808		£14501.05

BALANCE SHEET
(as at 31st January 1990)

Liabilities 1989			
	Accumulated Fund		
36287	Balance at 1st February 1989	36287.02	
	Deduct – Deficiency in Year	2171.89	34115.13
	Creditors:–		
–	General Fund		805.63
110	Expenses		249.64
£36397			£35170.40

Assets 1989			
2150	Office Equipment (at cost)	3221.43	
	Additions in Year	761.30	
		3982.73	
	Depreciation to date	1532.73	2450.00
4936	Trading stocks		6000.89
13	Debtor		– –
410	General Fund		– –
28716	National Savings Investment Account		25789.46
100	Alliance & Leicester Building Society		600.00
72	Cash at Bank		330.05
£36397			£35170.40

AUDITOR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS

I have examined the Accounts and Balance Sheet with the books and vouchers and having received all the information and explanations I have required, report that the said Accounts and Balance Sheet are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of affairs at 31st January 1990 according to the best of the information and explanations given to me and as shown by the books.

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East Finchley
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5 March 1990

THE CENOTAPH PARADE 1990

IMPORTANT NOTICE

We have an important notice to bring to the attention of all readers. We have a firm information from a B.B.C. Producer that the Palestine Police Cenotaph Parade will be filmed this year. It will, in the due process of time, become part of a documentary programme being planned about the history of The Palestine Police – from its early origins to The Stand Down. Research has already started and it will involve location in Israel and The West Bank in the autumn.

For the time being it would be nice if the Parade was shown in its best possible light – that is some sort of maximum attendance. You know the sort of thing. A touch of Scopus/Jenin swagger. Chins up. Shoulders back and a march to remember us by.

It is Central Council's desire that as many as possible make this supreme effort to attend the parade on time and eager to make it something that will do us, the O.C.A., and the old Force proud. See you there.

HOLIDAY IN BRITTANY

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LONDON AGM—DINNER—PARADE

ACCOMMODATION

To Fit YOUR Pocket

Following discussion with the General Manager of the Union Jack Club, Waterloo, London. Our association members will be very welcome to stay in their completely new club premises at Waterloo, near both the Cathedral Conference Centre and the Cenotaph.

Our members will be treated as temporary honorary members. Both twin beds and single rooms are available for members and families.

BOOK EARLY —

Mentioning Palestine Police O.C.A.

★ Excellent public transport services; handy for Central London.
★ Limited car parking facilities (not bookable in advance and at owner's risk).

BOOKINGS

Applications for accommodation should be made to The Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo, London SE1 8UJ (opposite Waterloo Station). (Telephone: 071-928 6401.)

Cheques can only be accepted when supported by a cheque card. (Not required for cheques sent by post.)

All meals are paid for as taken.

A deposit of one night's accommodation charge for each room is required at time of booking. This is returnable if booking is cancelled at least 48 hours in advance of date of arrival, less a small administrative charge. Telephone bookings must be confirmed in writing with the deposit. Please forward a stamped addressed envelope when requesting a reply.

HOME NOTES

It has been mentioned before that we now have two members living on Tenerife. (It has also been mentioned before that one more on that island would make a "mini-branch"). But we turned up a letter from John Hawley written over a year ago and who now resides at A14 Los Claveles, San Marcos, Icod de los Vinos, Tenerife, Canary Islands in which he enclosed a Christmas Menu Card for the Shafr Amr Detention Barracks Staff Mess 1943. A place whispered by most of us in case we were sent there as residents not entitled to attend functions at the Staff Mess. Some notables there at the time were:– D. Farrar, K.P.M. (Commandant), Messrs.:– T. Flynn, H. E. Hill, R. A. Russell, G. J. Fowle, W. G. Walton, W. F. Burns, M. Cahill, H. Flack, J. Newsham, T. Hayes, W. C. Tomlin, P. Sawyer, R. Jones, J. G. Coutts, C. Stokes, H. Grant and last but not least J. Hawley. How many are still with us we wonder. We rather liked the tale end of the menu which featured the usual Christmas goodies plus the words "Flowers min Allah, God Save the King, God Help Germany." One has to be British to understand that joke.

The Guardman's Post and The Guards News arrived on our mat and were read with full attention. A lot of trouble is taken to produce the former magazine and we are grateful for a chance to scan through it, specially when we find the name of a Guardsman-cum-Palestine Policeman mentioned. But we also notice some sort of appeal for financial support for The Guards Museum, Wellington Barracks, London. We do not wish to step out of line but feel it worthy of note that all former P.P./Guardsmen who happen to feel strongly about the magnificent museum in London, then anything that falls out of their wallets (or better still cheque books) can be usefully gathered in and we suggest forwarded to The Museum Curator who will send it on to the proper quarter for banking. Just a thought.

The photograph on Page 17 of the last issue caused a quake in the fermament and several readers kindly wrote about the identity of the central figure, described at the time as the officer commanding. We did moot that it might have been Jack Munro without his kalpak, although even as we went to print, we guessed we were wrong and would be corrected for it. We were wrong of course and nearly everyone came down for Superintendent Douglas Croxford, who joined the Force on 9 August 1943 as a matter of fact. Jack Richie of 2 Suidhe Crescent, Kincraig, Kingussie, Inverness-shire PH21 1NB was the first to write on the matter so his address gets the quote. We are indebted to him and on going back through the files, we discover Mr Croxford firmly established on record as being i/c Depot in early 1944. The caption above the picture did not help because of information received we put early 1940's which although more or less correct is about as misleading as one can get. This point was not missed by Brigadier Claude Wilkinson former D.S.P., of Heath Farm, North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 0LU. He served at the Depot 1938 to December 1940 and given the offending caption was surprised to discover that he did not recognise a single face. We now know why and apologise to him for his "surprise" and thank him for his letter. Anyway, Doug Croxford it is in the picture and 1944 is the date. So something has been settled at least.

We have all been amazed at events in Eastern Europe this last year and have pondered upon the breaching and then part destruction of The Berlin Wall. Few will know that the long arm of the P.P.O.C.A. extends into this field. I refer to the activities of Mrs. Gloria Robertson, daughter of Jim (Edgar) Wallace, who at present lives in Berlin to be near her husband whose flying activities are based there. Gloria is now engaged in selling bits of the wall on behalf of the East Berlin authorities. This must surely be the most improbable occupation of all time, but her expertise in organisation and sales will obviously count for much and may she be successful in the venture. This brings me to Mrs. Freda Wallace, Gloria's mother, who is now resident at the St. Clement Hotel, 67 St. Mildred's Road, Westgate, Kent and would be pleased to hear from, and to receive or hear from visitors, or hear from old friends.

Ray Sadler (former B/Const. 610) of 65 Elder Grove, Carmarthen, Dyfed SA31 2LH wrote a welcome missive to the General Secretary, basically to include the valuable Post Code, which so many of our members omit to put when writing. (One day's pay for each defaulter in future – Ed). He is reminded from the recent prison troubles of the time when he was stationed at Acre Central Prison in November 1947 when a number of Arab prisoners attacked Jewish prisoners. Four or five of the staff, including Ray, attempted to restore the situation but failed and were in a sticky position until a few shots were fired (presumably in the air – Ed) by B/Const. Stan Hobson, as he recalls. One of this small group was a B/Const. Fisher. So there you are. A chatty letter and perhaps a recall of the situation by others present including Messrs. Hobson and Fisher, if they are still with us. We enjoyed reading it. Now for something completely different. Every year Solo and Fanny Epstein of P.O. Box 16115, 61-160 Tel Aviv, Israel send us an Easter Card and/or a Christmas Card which is much appreciated. This brings us to the memory of a Union Flag donated by The Foreign Office to this Association for safe keeping, which was illustrated in Newsletter No. 150, Page 42. Solo has forwarded a newspaper cutting from The Jerusalem Post which reports the last Palestine Flag, which in effect is The Blue Ensign with a white circle depicting the word Palestine therein. This flag was lowered at the moment that the High Commissioner stepped aboard a Royal Navy vessel to make his departure. A Royal Navy seaman ceremoniously lowered the flag and started to fold it in regulation manner. He was asked by Haim Wollnerman what he was going to do with the flag and the seaman handed it to him. It is now to appear in a Haifa Museum which sounds like a good resting place to us. So we have the last Union Jack and the Haifa Museum has the last Palestine Flag. Solo has our thanks for the interesting anecdote.

All kinds of things are going on in Natal these days. Not just the quarrel between races. It is the heart of Harry Russell land, as Peter Barton described it in a letter. So let's see what there is to report. Firstly and in terms of health, reports are sad. Harry Russell (the lad himself) of 83 Lennoxmere, 28 Windermere Road, Durban 4001 wrote to say that Peter Lee and Bill Castle are both under the weather and possibly due for a spell in hospital. Then Peter Lee of 74 Athlone Towers, Lower Bridge Road, Durban North 4051 wrote to say that Bill Castle was not all that well. In fact, he was proper poorly by all accounts and thanks are due to Harry Russell for a large measure of transportation. Peter Lee being himself, also on a low ebb (see Sick Parade – Ed). But there is more, as they say. Peter Barton has changed his address and the Beni Barton have pitched their

tents at 6 Marvic Court, Gus Brown Road, Warner Beach, Natal 4125 where he once dwelled before employment took him elsewhere. He has now retired and we wish him a long and prosperous as well as a healthy retirement. When we come to take stock, we are reminded that Percy Cleaver lives at Manaba Beach, Natal (Yes, we know it is our turn to write to him) – J. D. Dixon lives at Gillitts, Norman Eeles at Pietermaritzburg, R. J. Giles (son of Giles Bey no less) lives at Merrivale, J. W. Matthews at Port Shepstone and J. G. Meyer resides in Durban. These are all Natal people. Whoever they are, and since ill health is abroad however they are, we wish them well.

Busty Reeve, former B/Sgt. 510 in days of yore but now to be found at Weir Cottage, Ibsley, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3PP wrote a handsome letter and mentions how much he and his wife and family enjoyed the Courtlands Hotel Dinner/Dance last December and he dropped heavy hints that he particularly enjoyed chatting about former Rugby days in Palestine. Busty was very active among those involved in the S.S. Patria sinking in Haifa Harbour in 1941 and with others has made useful contributions to what can now be regarded as a comprehensive account of the incident. We are thinking of knocking the entire episode into shape for posterity, if for no other reason than the fact that no one else has done do. One feels sure that Admiralty archives will have some buried gems on the subject but if so they have not met the light of day. We shall see. Meanwhile, thanks for the letter. Jack Pearson of 105 Yelverton Road, Coventry, GV6 4AG sent an interesting snippet about a book published by Chrysanthemum Publishing House in 1989 and written by Arthur Lane, who served in The Manchester Regiment in Palestine 1936-1938 (Tiberias and Acre areas mostly), and the Palestine Police get mentioned several times. We are always grateful for this kind of information. If anyone else is interested then the ISBN No is I 872518001. We shall look out for it.

Somewhere in the Antipodes, former Palestine Policeman K. A. (Bill) Bailey is passing his time. This snippet of information came about when he got his picture into a local newspaper called The Echo. This would appear to be a Victoria newspaper because those administering the Association's affairs know that Bill Bailey lives at 82 Clifton Springs Road, Drysdale 3222. Anyway, on 26 January 1988 (two years ago?) Bill got his picture in the paper and wearing The Tie, we are glad to say. The occasion was the receipt of a community service award which took place at the monthly meeting of the local council. Well done, sir. Railway buffs will be interested to know that among his other accomplishments, Bill has been a hard working member of the Geelong Steam Preservation Society. We are of the firm opinion that not a lot of people know that.

Friends of Anthony James Lyster will not have failed to notice his obituary notice that appeared on Page 50 of the last issue. His widow, Maureen (not Marion as reported) has been in contact and through these columns wishes to say how grateful she is that so many Palestine Police veterans turned out for her husband's funeral. She has known Duncan McNeil, who wrote the obituary notice for some 35 years. As it is she would have liked to have spoken to those "on parade" at the funeral and whose names are recorded previously but she was not aware of their presence until too late. She now wishes to thank you all. David Sparks (ex-B/Const. 3353) has moved from Lake Cottage, Bishops Wood, near Chard, Somerset to "Caledon" in the same village. He even keeps the same

postcode. No doubt this item will appear in a future newsletter when the General Secretary has processed it through the system. Then we shall get "the nod" to print it. But David wishes to point out that he is a member of The Police Insignia Collectors Association and if anyone has anything connected with a U.K. or a Colonial Police Force which they feel they could sell, would they please let him know. His telephone number is 046034 406. In the old days it was Buckland St. Mary 406 which sounds much nicer.

A. F. (Terry) Burke of 7 La Vallette Court, Ras il Qawra, Malta has come up with an idea that might stand an airing. He suggests that the newsletter could usefully be printed in Malta at a much lower cost than U.K. prices. A useful thought no doubt. Kuwait is cheaper still, as a matter of fact, and this editor has already explored some of his "other work" being printed and bound in The Middle East. There is a "but" of course and that is until a lean and hungry young man of journalist experience comes along to take over the whole problem, this editor is of the opinion that it is about as much as he can do to cope with our printers (may I say our excellent printers – long may they be praised and may a thousand camels fertilise their lawn) being 110 miles distant; 2,000 miles would kill the editor. But all ideas will be considered and we must thank Terry for the suggestion.

Those from whom we have heard, be it letter, telephone call or passing chat, include:- S. A. G. (Sid) Williams of Bat Yam, 1 Cedar Way, High Brixham, South Devon TQ5 0DQ, a former Head Constable whose card was posted in Cornwall and for which many thanks. David Dickson, 21 Forth Park Drive, Kirkcaldy, Fife KY2 5TB. Ian Proud, "Amble", 33 Chipstead Park, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2SL (two letters as a matter of fact and both useful – Ed). W. (Bill) Hawkes, Chilla Cottage, Membury, Axminster, Devon EX13 7TZ. And finally Duncan McNeil, Barra, Kippford, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire, DG5 4LL and there was a useful letter about Tom Clunie (see elsewhere in Home Notes – Ed).

Ernie Duval C.P.M. has taken to becoming a wanderer and recently spent some many pleasant weeks (or was it months?) in Cyprus. While there he came across a former Life Guardsman who remembered many Palestine Policemen with fondness. He was also able to report that the former Life Guards Heavyweight boxing champion George Hyslop is still alive and kicking (our expression – Ed) and would wish to send goodwill greetings and best wishes to all such P.P. who remember him. It is a pity that the late Adrian (Slooge) Hawley is not with us. The Hawley V Hyslop fight was one that brought everything to a standstill in The Middle East until decided, Hyslop being army champion at the time. Hawley won on points and was afterwards to say it was the toughest fight of his entire boxing career. We all return the sentiments and wherever George Hyslop is living, we wish him well and hope that somehow this greeting can be conveyed back to him.

We had a nice letter from Richard Darling dated 12th February. At least our General Secretary had the nice letter but we all share in the kind thoughts conveyed in it. His mother, Eileen Darling, died recently and we published a short notice of this sad event in the last issue. Richard's father, Harold, was the senior signals Officer in Palestine. Richards recalls many well known names, long since departed and regrets that passing of Roy Fitze some years ago. He still

remembers a boxing lesson he received from the great man when he was about 11 years old and says "My nose has not recovered". Perhaps one day this association will be made up of second and third generation P.P., improbable yes but not impossible. Anyway thanks for the letter.

Roy Lamond of Beit Tiberia, Knockard Road, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5HJ sent an interesting photograph and we really do not know if it will reproduce very well. It was taken in 1932 and shows several British Police grouped round a motor cycle and sidecar which was touring round the world advertising John Bull tyres. How far did it get? he wonders. On the far right of the group is our dear friend Aubrey Silver with revolver and at the time an A.S.P., but a long way from band practice we would say. On the whole an interesting picture.

We owed 'Abdullah Saleem abu Shaikha a letter. So at long last we wrote, his address being P.O. Box 1615, Doha, Qatar. This former Palestinian Inspector and a son of Meithaloun village near Jenin did very well in the police force at Qatar and has long since retired. Naturally 'Abdullah wrote back and as we keep all his letters it went "on file" as they say. But then we discovered that Shan Wilson of Cornwall wrote to him and Scottie, Johnstone-Scott of Malaga, Spain actually spoke to to 'Abdullah on the telphone. So one way or another we have a sort of bonding with a former member of the Palestinian Section of the force, albeit a scion of an ancient family in The Holy Land, and several members of the British Section. A form of old comradeship that must surely be encouraged. Before he sadly died John Briance, former D.S.P. in Palestine, wrote in the middle of last summer to mention that he was in contact with Assad Kamal Al (As) Sa'adi of Nabulsi Building, King Hussein Street, P.O. Box 1256, Amman, Jordan who wished to re-establish contact with this association. This is the good news. The bad news is, we are not sure what we actually did about this information and so now, at this late hour, pass it across to our General Secretary to deal with.

It never ceases to surprise us how every photograph or comment in the newsletter jogs into top gear the memory of somebody or other with gemlike response. Some of these merit further public comment in their turn. So we go on until the distant past becomes merged into the immediate past as though we are talking of yesterday and not something between 45 and 55 years ago. Just such a jog came from John Ludlow of 24 Ashfield Avenue, Atherton, Lancashire M29 0HD. There were three or four Ludlows in Palestine, 403 of 1939 – 4040 of 1944, to mention only two. This John was 1374 of 1938. He was reminded from a recent newsletter that he was in the Firing Party at the funeral of Inspector Birch, who was killed on 1 October 1938. He also recalls the time when Leonard Cross simply "disappeared" from El Hamma Police Post which is (was?) north east of Samakh and was never seen again. He is shown on our Roll of Honour as missing believed dead, an unusual and probably unique position for a police force anywhere in the world. John was sent to El Hamma to take this place. That is something not likely to be forgotten, we suggest.

Gerald Chapman wrote from 1641 Dominion Road, Fort Erie, Ontario L2A 5M4, Canada and appears to have been in touch with, or at least heard from, fellow Canadian Harry Summerton who has in turn been in touch with Alan Guest and both are reported to be in good "nick". Gerald went on to serve in Nigeria after leaving Palestine and may be remembered in that territory if not in Palestine.

Friends of former A.S.P. Thomas Edwin Clunie of April 1939 vintage in Palestine will not have failed to notice a Tracer for him on page 63 of the last issue. His whereabouts are being sought by no less a personage than Duggie Fairfoul of 84 Coral Road, Bloubergrand, 7443, R.S.A. Well thanks to Duncan McNeil who put on his detective hat, or perhaps he just had to consult his address book. Hat or book, we thank Duncan for nudging enquiries towards T. E. Clunie Esq., C.B.E., Q.P.M., C.P.M., of Northcott, 12 Coombe Lane West, Kingston on Thames, Surrey KT2 7BX. So there is a happy ending and, as we have often had occasion to point out, the Tracer Section really does get a very high rate of success.

In the last year we have had at least three letters from H. G. Davies of 277 Birmingham Road, Enfield, Redditch, Worcestershire B97 6EH and we find no record that we have actually replied to any of them. But they are all good reading with an element of charm about them although not all his memories of the old Force are happy ones. This old comrade had to wait four years to get his discharge from the P.P. but then went straight back into the army and served in the European campaign to reach the Elbe. We also note he is rushing toward a Golden Wedding situation which should arrive in a couple of years or so. Well done. D. W. Bromley of Bungalow 42, Llysycoed, Culfor Road, Loughor, Swansea, South Wales SA4 2XR is to be congratulated. He has been elected Chairman of the local branch of the Disabled Drivers' Association. This is a very worthwhile organisation and as in the case of so many other charities and public bodies it needs the Bromleys of this world to make it all tick.

Ages ago we had a letter from Jack Ammonds of 14 Bogs Lane, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 4DY which we admit shamefully we have only recently answered. But Jack lamented the lack of news of his old friend Tommy Hooke, former B/Const. 913 and who now also lives in Harrogate. Tommy is of 1930 vintage and served until 1948. He was awarded the B.E.M., vide London Gazette New Year Honours 1938 for a magnificent action with Constables Kennedy, Murrell and McGill on 25 March 1937 when ambushed on Jerusalem-Jaffa Road. Also the C.P.M. for Gallantry vide London Gazette of 3 January 1939. So Jack rightly feels that this old comrade should not slip out of the limelight which is something with which we would agree. Anyway the two are now in contact and exchange news of the old days. Jack also asks "What happened to Ginger Smy?". This is something we have often asked ourselves, particularly Stan Baxendale who was a riding companion in his Sawari days with Ginger. We believe this to be 712 J. E. Smy by the way and although we do not have news, somebody else might, so please tell us.

John Newman, former B/Cont. 2131 of Grays Inn, Napoleon Street, Jamestown, Island of St. Helena, South Atlantic has an unusual location and an unusual vocation, or at least he did. Until recently, he was Chief of Police but in 1984 handed over this onerous task to someone else and instead became, in the due process of time, a Lay Advocate and respresents people in both the Supreme Court on the island and in the Magistrates Court. If this is not enough, he was elected in May 1989 to be a member of the Legislative Council for the Jamestown Constituency and finally has been appointed Chairman of the Employment and Social Services Committee on the Executive Council. "Never a dull moment" he says in his letter. We wish him well.

Once again the Tracers section seems to work well and once again we have a happy ending to the Tracer search. This time Mrs. Rowena Matheson Cullen of c/o Post Office, Girne, Mersin 10, Turkey has passed to us the address of Mrs. E. Holloway whom the General Secretary sought because of a disappearance from his mailing list. Ella Holloway, widow of the lately lamented Crash Holloway, can now be found at Home for Distressed Gentlefolk, Spicer Road, Exeter, Devon, where we understand she is very comfortable.

Shan Wilson of Orchard Close, Bosnieres, Withiel near Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 5NQ, has been in touch with several people of note. He has been in correspondence with Umberto Pernetta who lives in Oberammagau, believe it or not and whose letters when they do come are worth preserving for posterity, or at least a third or fourth perusal. Also 'Adbullah Saleem abu Shaikeh in Qatar, with whom he served in Jaffa area. He names Manshier as a matter of fact and with whom he passed his first Arabic examination. Shan speaks very good Arabic as a matter of fact but like the rest of us, there was a start point with basic colloquial. Cornwall is a bit far for some of us but doubtless those who live there prefer it that way. I think we understand that viewpoint. Thanks for the letter.

A long time ago Jack Ritchie of 2 Suidhe Crescent, Kincraig, Kingussie, Invernesshire PH21 1NB pointed out that Wally Smith, living in Sussex had fallen and suffered a broken hip. This was passed to secretary of S. & E. Counties Branch. It will be seen in the list of obituary notices at the rear of this issue that Wally has sadly died. We have to thank Jack for his information which was valuable to us, although we are unable from this distance to say what arrangements could be made to make a visit. S. & E. Counties do have a very good tradition for visiting sick and ailing members in the branch area but perhaps events overtook them in this instance.

Gerald (Dodger) Green an ex-H.O.P. man has been busy meeting old friends for the first time since Stand Down, namely John Thompson who lives at 28 Kenelm Rise, Wincombe, Gloucestershire GL54 5JL and not all that far from his own home at Northleach in the same county. They went out to Palestine together and they met at the funeral of the late Dave Steggles in Leamington Spa (see Obiturary Notices – Ed). Gerald also met former Head Constable Arthur Jupp whose home is at 43 Redbreast Road, Moordown, Bournemouth, Dorset BH9 3AL. Then he also met former A.S.P. Carl Rowland-Tims now to be found at 28 Lower Street, Stroud, Gloucestershire. These latter meetings took place at Blunsdon House Hotel at a South Midlands Branch function. Finally, while lecturing in Glasgow, Gerald met former H.O.P. man, John Pollack of 39 Bucklaw Gardens, Cardonald, Glasgow G52 3ST and who has not met any ex-P.P. since 1948.

We are sometimes asked by members what is meant by the initials H.O.P. or L.O.P. or even J.O.P.? We have taken it for granted everyone knew. Well they don't, so let us explain that towards the end of our work an almost sacred trust in Palestine Operational patrols were formed in the principal towns to protect convoys, make armoured car patrols outside the perimeter fencing and generally act as a strong arm unit on a "fire brigade" basis. They took a lot of punishment and suffered considerable casualties. Hence a strong bonding of the crews which has sustained the test of time. H.O.P. was Haifa Operational Patrol, J.O.P.

Jerusalem and L.O.P. Lydda. We have intended to make this announcement for some two years or so.

Those who follow the fortunes and movements of Charlie Heathfield will wish to know he has changed his address from Alfred Road, Newtown Ashford to 76 Royds Road, South Willesborough, Ashford, Kent. So far no postcode, he points out. No doubt this will appear in a future Change of Address section. It must be obvious he misses his old pal George Lancaster whose obituary notice he supplied in the last issue.

H. R. (Reg) Noakes, former B/Const. of 1939 period in Palestine is a busy sort of chap. This association has reason to be grateful for the many services he has rendered over the years. He was born at Cranleigh in Surrey and still lives there at High Gable, The Common, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8SH. A year ago the local newspaper, The Surrey Advertiser of 7 April 1989, gave Reg and his group of companies almost a page in copy space and advertising space as well as a photograph of the well nourished and amiable Reg beaming into the camera from his motor car. While in Palestine, Reg was a member of The Palestine Police Transport Column that did such yeoman service in the Syria Campaign against Vichy France. He then went on to serve 17 years in East Africa where his children were born and for the last 25 years has been commercial "top-man" in Cranleigh. We feel if Reg had stayed in Palestine he might have become a second Mr. Spinney. Well deserved too, because hard work seems to be the recipe for success.

Home Notes this quarter looks like creeping over the "yardstick" of eight pages of manuscript. We are already on nine pages and there is much that should be included. Not the least is a report that J. G. Wardle of 17 Frederick Neal Avenue, Eastern Green (we nearly typed Eastern Police Station – Ed), Coventry CV5 7EH is what is known as a radio ham. Or so we discover. He will be pleased to make contact with other enthusiasts through their respective Call Signs but we do not have the useful Call Sign of Wardle Effendi himself. At this point we are aware that there have been other "hams" in our ranks and for the moment can only recall one in Kenya whom we believe is (or was) Bill Hopley. Are there others?

Another instance of P.P. familiness is recorded by Sam Bearman of 274 Wilsonn Avenue, Rochester, Kent whose daughter lives in Vancouver, B.C. Sam and his wife left the U.K. on 15 December last to stay with her and this coincided with their Ruby Wedding Anniversary which was 24th December. To their surprise and delight, they met Willie and Nancy Bolton whom Sam had not seen for 42 years. They served at Sarona together in the P.M.F. 1946 onwards until posted to Ajami P.S. What a delightful surprise and what an enterprising daughter. Much of this is due to Don Cartwright apparently who had earlier been able to locate Willie Bolton and bring both parties together. For this, many thanks are offered.

Harry Dobson of Lane Avenue, Rosanna, Melbourne, Victoria 3084, Australia wrote in nostalgic terms and was clearly upset to lose his old comrade and mounted companion Eddie Summers (see Obituary Notices – Ed). He also refers to "Buck" Garland whom he remembers from M.P.S.F. days at Ramle and Saffourieh 1940-1942. He recalls that Buck was an ex-cavalryman in the British Army and had served in India for many years which he loved and served through

the dreadful Quetta earthquake. Buck would often gather herbs from the countryside in Palestine and cook them, thereby earning the nickname "Yogi". An altogether lovable character. He ends with "May all our departed comrades rest in peace".

Mrs. Betty Lucas, formerly of Gardeners Row, Oek Oakenholt, Flint, North Wales has removed to 41b Woodlands Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 2BU, so old friends and Branch Secretaries should amend their records. It is hoped we can publish this in the Changes of Address section in the next issue. We owe G. D. (Paddy) Patterson of P.O. Box 70375 Bryanston, 2021, Johannesburg, R.S.A., some sort of apology and we shall unravel the implications of his letter of 14 February and try and make amends in the next issue. Although we do not know what happened or alternatively do not know how it happened, clearly we admit that something happened and is officially in the Got it Wrong Department. We aim to do better next time.

Writing this paragraph one week after the immediate past paragraph, we find that by discovering another pile of letters, we need to continue Home Notes for just one more page of manuscript, or some people will be exceedingly wrath with us. We have heard, for example, from David Dickson of 21 Forth Park Drive, Kircaldy, Fife KY2 5TB. A nice chap living in a nice part of the world we would say. He informed us that he has been regularly corresponding with Peter Lee of 74 Athlone Towers, Lower Bridge Road, Durban North, Natal 4051 R.S.A., who has in turn been in contact with our Vice-President John Fforde and Messrs. Castle and Meyer of those parts.

Aubrey Nye of Broom Knoll, Judith Avenue, Knodishall, Saxundham, Suffolk IP17 1UY visited Israel and the West Bank recently with his family and hired a car and visited many of his former places of adventure. He also did a useful little job for us in the research field which we appreciate. In reporting back, he gave some useful names for contact at some future date. We had a nice letter from Mrs. Valerie Coppard of 21 Grantham Bank, Barcombe, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 5DJ. She is the daughter of the late Walter George Smith, whose obituary notice appears at the rear of this issue. Her mother, Mrs. Maude Smith was surprised to find in the last issue a picture of her husband on page 17. She is one of the many who have written in to positively identify the central figure as being that of Doug Croxford. This subject has already been dealt with earlier but we are grateful and in any case it was a nice letter. On page 51 of newsletter 157 (December 1989) we published the obituary notice of Jack Kennedy. Since then we had a nice letter from his widow Olga. We aim to reply to this letter because Olga mentions some Squad photographs which interest us and we wish to say "Yes please, the association would like to keep them". Pray give us time to do this, dear lady and meanwhile thank you.

Peter Miners formerly of Palestine Police, Kenya and Malaya (or was it Malaya and then Kenya?) has been in touch with the G.S. because he has "forgotten" or at least lost his former P.P. number. He feels it might have been 98 and he joined the Force in 1946, so is not shown on our own Nominal Roll. Can anyone oblige Peter, and us, by coming up with something concrete? We have heard from Sid Excell (B/Sgt. 838) of 8 Glen Rise, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0AW, as well as W. H. Mountford (B/Const. 3545) of 53 Velsheda Road, Shirley,

Solihull, West Midlands B90 2JP, Leo Corcoran (B/Const. 4057) 10 Milford Grove, Offerton Fold, Stockport, Cheshire SK2 5TN with an item that is worth a more detailed mention in the next issue and Joe Bairstow (B/Const. 2006) of 19 Brooklands Avenue, Holywell Green, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX4 9AA, who sent a letter that simply must feature in the next issue.

Now that simply must be the end of these notes. More again next quarter.

AN EARLY REUNION

Left to right: *Jack Sharpe, Sid Walden, Harry Lane, Sam Davies, Arthur Cross, two faces peering from the back and Sid Johnson. They all look mysteriously youthful. Was there a tie problem?*
Photograph from Jack Sharpe.

MOUNT SCOPUS 1940

The Squad Sergeant is George Hunt with Sergeant MacDonald on his left and B.Const. 2006 Joe Bairstow standing behind George Hunt.
Photograph from Joe Bairstow.

THE FUNERAL OF A BRITISH POLICEMAN – ONE

Photograph from the collection of the late Bob Stanners.

THE FUNERAL OF A BRITISH POLICEMAN – TWO

Photograph from the collection of the late Bob Stanners.

TULKARM 1947

"Babs" Barber and Ron Roberts.
Photograph from the late Bob Stanners collection.

GATE GUARD

Left to right: *B/Sgt. Jim Wallace, 631 Vincent and either 2131 or 2181 but who?*
Photograph from the late Jim Wallace collection.

ANYONE KNOW WHERE THIS IS?

Photograph from the collection of the late Jim Wallace.

2nd from left in middle row is Pat Bindoff.
Photograph from the collection of the late Pat Bindoff.

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LONDON BRANCH

The branch meets on the first Saturday of every month at the Cardinal, "Headquarters", Francis Street, London SW1, at 8.00 p.m. The presence of the ladies is positively encouraged.

Chairman Emeritus: T. J. Shand Esq.

Chairman: L. Sexton, 42 Barbara Brosnan Court, 46 Grove End Road, St. Johns Wood, London NW8 9NP. Tel: 071-289 0041.

Vice-Chairman: T. Isted, Flat 6, 34 Erskine Road, Walthamstow, London E17 6RZ. Tel: 081-520 5914.

Secretary: W. Anderson, 19 Priestly Road, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2LL. Tel: 081-648 8324.

Acting Secretary (June to October 1990): Paddy O'Boyle, 21 Cavendish Close, Kilburn, London NW6 7XU. Tel: 081-451 1745.

Treasurer: T. Freeburn, 24 Dale View Avenue, Chingford, London E4 6PL. Tel: 081-524 2081.

Committee: Messrs R. Hamilton, P. O'Boyle, L. Ratcliffe and C. Wood.

★

After a lapse of a year the branch returned to the P.P. social calendar with a Ladies' Night Dinner-Dance on 17 February 1990 which took place at The Victory Services Club, near Marble Arch. Over 70 sat down to dinner and afterwards enjoyed the dancing and everyone expressed the view that it was a "fantastic" night. There is no doubt the venue is a good one and we have booked the same place for next year. The sub-committee of Messrs. Laurie Ratcliffe, Paddy O'Boyle and Branch Vice-Chairman Tom Isted did a good job and are to be congratulated, the Branch Chairman Emeritus Terry Shand giving much support.

The Cardinal evenings show a downward drop as the years go by, but it is felt that they are still worthwhile. In February (3rd) the following turned up:– Terry Shand, Micky Hills, Bill Anderson, Len Sexton, Tom Freeburn, Tom Isted all of whom are Central Councillors as well as wearing various branch hats. Laurie and Joan Ratcliffe, George Guest, Derek Jackson, Harry Jervis and Bill Shearman were also there from London Branch while Arthur Dawson, Peter and Hilda Tombs, Don and Eileen Williams represented South Eastern Counties. It was felt to have been a good meeting. On the 3rd April many of the above names were there again and it is not sensible to keep repeating them, but Bill and Flo Parks, Clive Smettem and John (Angus) Wilson came along too and it was nice to see them. This time from South East Counties we saw Arthur Dawson, Don and Eileen Williams and Ian Thomson, who is an Associate Member, with his wife, Judith, and Judith's "Mum" who is still searching for news of Ian's Dad (see Tracer on pages 65 and 66 in newsletter 157, December 1989).

Finally those who attended on 7th April again included a big chunk of London Branch Officers and committee members but with the happy addition of Mary Sexton with a friend Ena Francis, Stan and Margaret Baxendale, Ken Cox, Charles and Tegwyn Gammon, Derek Jackson, Bill and Flo Parks and Bill Shearman. Arthur and Muriel Dawson as well as Don and Eileen Williams were there once more and from the Midlands Branch area we were able to welcome John Gibbons, all of which goes to prove that the Cardinal "Headquarters" gatherings are still an essential ingredient to P.P. fraternisation.

I would like to take this opportunity of reminding all branch members, and indeed everyone else, that this Secretary will be away on holiday from the end of June until the beginning of October – that means in other words four months' leave of absence. (Sounds like U.K. leave in the old days – Ed). Paddy O'Boyle of 21 Cavendish Close, Kilburn, London NW6 7XU will be Acting Secretary and deputising for me. His telephone number being:– 081-451 1745. We should all be grateful that he has agreed to Stand In.

W.A.

SOUTH-EASTERN COUNTIES BRANCH

Chairman: W. H. (Bill) Church, 1 Wimbourne Avenue, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5AQ. Tel: (0737) 765488.

Vice-Chairman/Secretary: Maurice H. Hill, 7 Selhurst Close, East Preston, West Sussex BN16 2SR. Tel: (0903) 776661.

Treasurer: Maurice B. Clarke, 16 Turners Mill Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex TH16 1NW. Tel: (0444) 454969.

Committee: Messrs M. E. Brackston, A. R. Hawkridge, E. S. C. Lillywhite, J. L. Niven, R. G. Turner and E. H. Weeks.

★

Our luncheon on 11 February 1990 at The County Hotel, Ashford, Kent attracted 43 to the table. We were pleased to welcome John Foster, General Secretary and his wife Dorothy yet again. Thanks to the efforts of Ron Pemble, assisted by Ron Turner (the Two Ronnies? – Ed), this was a successful and enjoyable function. It may be that "winter ills" contributed to smaller numbers. On 11 March we again finished up at The Smugglers' Roost, Rustington in Sussex for a luncheon and this venue is booked again for 11 June. We did ourselves proud but it is only attracted 20 people and the organiser, Albert Hawkridge, was not too pleased so let's hope June shows an improvement.

At the moment we are waiting for Surrey members to come up with a venue for July. The branch Away Weekend at the Coniston Hotel, Sittingbourne, Kent promises to be a real "cracker" with record attendances that weekend. Remember the date is 22/23 September 1990. The actual Dinner/Dance will cost £12.00 per head, while the Sunday luncheon will be £9.50. Despite these increases we still feel they are good value.

NEW FOREST HUFLI

Katha and Ann Shand invite you to

A PALESTINE HUFLI IN THE HEART OF THE NEW FOREST

Sunday, 2nd September, 1990

say about noon.

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Telephone that you are coming:

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You can always bring a contribution to the food

SOUTH-EAST COUNTIES BRANCH

AWAY WEEKEND

CONISTON HOTEL · SITTINGBOURNE · KENT

Saturday 22nd September, 1990

DINNER/DANCE

7.00 p.m. Tickets: £12.00 Dress: Lounge

Sunday 23rd September, 1990

LUNCHEON

1.00 p.m. Tickets: £9.50

For tickets and information:

R. W. H. (Ron) Pemble

2a Ulley Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN24 9HT

Telephone: 0233 67844

Hotel charges: (B & B) £44.00 double

£22.00 single

The year 1990 got off to an extremely bad start with the deaths of Claude (Carl) Lawrence, ex-D.S.P. and Force Cricket Captain. Also Wally Smith, ex-A.S.P., George Lancaster and Harry Abnett. All were stalwart supporters and will be sadly missed. The branch still does duty as "Palace Guard" and look after our I.G. and President, Brigadier Rymer-Jones, or at least we keep an eye on him. We still keep an eye on our sick members when we know about them. It was sad, of course, but before Wally Smith died, Albert Hawkridge and Maurice Hill managed to visit him and we had a congenial chat.

M.H.H.

SOUTHERN AND WESTERN COUNTIES BRANCH

Chairman: J. H. Leggett, Southview, 1 Hamtun Crescent, Totton, Southampton, Hampshire SO4 3PB. Tel: (0703) 863498.

Vice-Chairman: D. L. Long, 3 Sloborough Close, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 5RF. Tel: (0305 81) 3528.

Acting Secretary: B. P. Henwood, 169 Stourvale Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth, Dorset BH6 5HQ. Tel: (0202) 431172.

Treasurer: T. R. Walker, 8 Moonrakers Way, Highcliffe, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 4RD. Tel: (0425) 26761.

Minutes Secretary: Miss A. Shand, Linford Farm House, Linford, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3HX. Tel: (0425) 472770.

Committee: Messrs E. DeVal, C.P.M., H. J. Jensen, A. Metcalfe, J. W. E. Tait and G. W. Vaughan.

★

The branch Annual General Meeting took place at The Courtlands Hotel, Bournemouth on Sunday 1 April 1990 (Yes! April Fool's Day). 13 members of the branch were present and many weighty matters were discussed and resolved. These included:– Johnny Leggett (Totton), Bunny Henwood (Bournemouth), Ted Horne (Central Council and Barton on Sea), Bill Tait (Andover), Ernie DeVal (Fareham), John Howerd (Bournemouth), Don Long (Weymouth), Wally Sendell (Lymington), Geoffrey Owen (Eastleigh), Hank Jensen (Crewkerne), Jack Edmands (Warshash), Ken Harrison (Wellington) and Trevor Kirby (Poole). The officers shown at the branch heading above were re-elected in the positions shown. It should be pointed out that many were accompanied by their wives, some of whom attended the lunch, and others foregathered for tea. Ivy Mann brought a feeling of the branch's former founder secretary, the late Roy Mann. Ann Shand sat in throughout the meeting and recorded the minutes. The financial position is satisfactory so members can have confidence in the ensuing year.

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There will be another New Forest Hufli at the home of Ann Shand and her mother Katha on Sunday 2 September 1990. Now a traditional event in the branch calendar. See separate advertisement in this issue giving details. But, and there is always a "but" with Hufli meetings, please let the two hostesses know in advance that you are attending. It does not take a lot of imagination to guess the catering problems if some rough estimate of attendance is not given in advance. The telephone number to contact is: Ringwood (0425) 47 2770.

B.P.H.
(Acting Khatib)

SOUTH MIDLANDS BRANCH

Chairman: J. H. Foster, 101 Howberry Road, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4SD. Tel: 081-954 6904.

Secretary/Treasurer: Lew H. Boffin, 13 Highworth Road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7EG. Tel: (0367) 20225.

★

Sunday 22 April found the branch sitting down to a Luncheon Party at Blunsdon House Hotel, which for those who still do not know, is at Blunsdon, near Swindon in Wiltshire. No speeches, everyone was told in advance, just a few words of welcome. At time of going to press the outcome is not known but its anticipated success will be published in the next issue. On Sunday 19 August the now traditional Garden Party will take place at 13 Highworth Road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, the well known residence of Lewis Ibn Boffin. These days more frequently referred to as The Faringdon Hufli. Bring a chair if you hope to sit down during the event and perhaps a little something for a raffle. Both the above events require an element of co-operation from those who intend to turn up. That is, notification that you aim to be there. In the first instance we hope you did just that and in the second instance we hope you will do so.

The Branch Annual Dinner Dance will take place at Blunsdon House Hotel on Saturday 27 October, 6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m. at £12.00 per head. Bed and breakfast at the hotel is set at £25.00 per head in double or twin rooms or £30.00 for single persons. All rooms with private facilities by the way and are considered most luxurious by any standard. This is the event of the year in the P.P. calendar, even members of other branches grudgingly agree. So if you want a nice "Get Away" Weekend, it's a case of "See you at Blunsdon". By way of strong hint, it would assist the secretary if everyone included the remittance when replying and book the hotel through him please, not direct to the hotel . . .

L.H.B.

FARINGDON HUFLI

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(Lew is a butcher after all)

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Sunday, 19th August, 1990

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The raffle to cover expenses of food and drink

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by 16th August

EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH

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TICKETS: £8.50 per head

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EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH

Chairman: G. Dack, C.P.M., 7 Dencora House, Theatre Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 1RG. Tel: (0603) 623572.

Secretary/Treasurer: C. A. (Topper) Brown, 11 Briar Lane, Swainsthorpe, Norwich, Norfolk NR14 8PJ. Tel: (0508) 470652

Committee: Messrs. J. C. (Ras) Thompson, W. (Bill) Segrue and R. W. (Ron) Postle.

★

A joint meeting and luncheon took place on Sunday 18 March 1990 at our normal venue, The Caistor Country Club, when a select few attended, viz: George and Rita Dack, Ron and Ann Postle, Percy and Ruby Gill, Ras Thompson and Peggy Brown. Following the luncheon those present visited "Topper" Brown in Norwich Hospital, where he was recovering from surgery. (I am assured he is now back to his best – T.L.S. Sub-Editor). Topper welcomed them in his room correctly sporting a properly knotted P.P. cravat.

The forthcoming Branch Annual Luncheon also at The Caistor Country Club is set for Sunday 29 July 1990. See separate advertisement and while you are gazing at it in sheer wonder and reaching for your cheque books, notice the ridiculously low cost of £8.50 per head. The terms for staying at the club to make a decent Away Weekend are pretty generous too. Book through me please. Details of who came, who went early and who stayed until last will appear in the next issue. We welcome old comrades from other branches and it's always an enjoyable function and well supported. Also don't forget some raffle prizes.

C.A.B.

EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH

Chairman: H. G. Elvin, High View, 50 Violet Road, Carlton, Nottingham, NG4 3QP. Tel: (0602) 871289.

Vice-Chairman: W. Ridgard, 36 Church Road, Burton Joyce, Nottinghamshire NG14 5GG. Tel: (0602) 313361.

Secretary: H. G. Coaten, 6 Newton Avenue, Bingham, Nottinghamshire BG13 8FJ. Tel: (0949) 37907.

Treasurer: J. H. Chettle, 3 Thoresby Road, Bramcote, Nottinghamshire BG9 3EY. Tel: (0602) 255202.

Committee: Messrs D. Alexander, A. Boneham and W. Herring.

★

Our gathering at The Swallow Hotel, South Normanton on Saturday 12 May will be reported in the next issue.

H.G.C.

MIDLANDS BRANCH

The branch meets at noon on the Sunday following the third Saturday in the months of May, August and November at the United Services Club, Gough Street, Birmingham.

Chairman: Fred J. Gardiner, 14 Brampton Avenue, Hall Green, West Midlands, B28 9LG. Tel: (0217) 442640.

Vice-Chairman: John Wardle, 17 Frederick Neal Avenue, Eastern Green, Coventry CV5 7EH. Tel: (0203) 464733.

Secretary: Les G. Faulkes, 35 Home Farm Crescent, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 2QW. Tel: (0926) 332814.

Treasurer: Alf Burton, 8 Willow Drive, Desford, Leicestershire LE9 9HB. Tel: (0455) 822494.

★

The branch 41st Annual Dinner-Dance was held on Saturday 17 March 1990 with 49 people present. Peter and Sheena Hornby were last minute arrivals and were most welcome after their journey down from Lancashire. Among the others who attended were Terry Shand, Association Chairman, Micky Hills and Tom Isted from Central Council, Les and Ira Cox and Peter and Carol Cox from Kings Langley, Majorie Niven from Kent, Lew and Pam Boffin with Bill and Daphne Gibbons from South Midlands branch area and Norman Gartside from Merseyside Branch area. After the usual opening Toasts, The Toast to the guests was proposed by the Branch Chairman, Fred Gardiner and the Toast to the Association was given by J. L. (David) Niven of Central Council. To close the formal proceedings The Holy City was sung by Carol Rawlins "borrowed" from South Midlands Branch. It was a very enjoyable and successful evening.

L.G.F.

MERSEYSIDE AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Meets on the first Wednesday of each month at The Sergeants Mess, Liverpool Scottish Regiment, Score Lane, Liverpool 6.

Chairman: L. Adamson, 57 Alden Road, Prescot, Merseyside L34 2SG. Tel: 051 42 67198.

Vice-Chairman: H. White, 171 Bowring Park Avenue, Liverpool L16 2LE. Tel: 051 48 03724.

Secretary: A. R. Gregson, 12 Regent Avenue, Liverpool L14 6UL. Tel: 051 48 92068.

Treasurer: J. M. Thomas, 7 Rimmer Avenue, Liverpool L16 2NE. Tel: 051 48 92101.

★

The branch was pleased to be able to welcome a new member. He is Ken Edwards, who lives at 62 Rocky Lane, Childwall, Liverpool L16 1JD, who turned up at our February meeting and we look forward to seeing him again. Our Chairman, Len Adamson, and his wife Eileen went to Israel to attend the wedding of their daughter, Jane, to Saliba at St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem. This took place on 17 February 1990 and we wish the newly-weds all the luck in the world. We also hope to see them at our Branch Dinner-Dance on 26 May 1990 which is a good time to remind readers that this event is scheduled to take place at The Crest Hotel, Liverpool where we have held it for many years and on the Sunday morning, the Derby Sweepstake Draw will take place. This is our 30th Annual Dinner-Dance and details of what took place and who was there will appear in the next issue.

John Thomas, our Branch Treasurer, received an unusual honour and this is reported in the Congratulations section.

Reports of our Memorial Service in Liverpool Cathedral on 17 May 1990 and on our 30th Annual Dinner-Dance, already mentioned above, can be eagerly anticipated in the next issue.

A.R.G.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH

Chairman Emeritus: H. J. Keeton, Esq.

Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer: R. Saxon, 46 St. Paul's Road, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD5 0EX. Tel: (0484) 428247.

Vice-Chairman: T. E. Garbutt, 393 Apperley Road, Apperley Bridge, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD10 0PU. Tel: (0274) 615628.

Social Secretary: D. Bland, 28 Southwood Road, Thorn, Nr. Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN8 5QS. Tel: (0405) 813242.

Committee: Messrs J. Brown , E. Isherwood and A. Wheelhouse.

★

By the time this gets onto your breakfast tables we would have had the branch Annual Dinner-Dance arranged for 7 April at York and the details for this will appear in the next issue. Also there was a branch meeting on Sunday 18 March at The Green Dragon, Emley Moor. 43 turned out for this event and it is a couple of years since we had so many "on parade" for this sort of function. After taking food, we removed ourselves to The Saxon Bungalow, where the branch committee meeting and general meeting took place. The next meeting at The Green Dragon, Emley is arranged for Saturday 19 May 1990 (not Sunday as previously held) at the hour of High Noon. This newsletter will not be with you in time to act as reminder, unfortunately.

The branch committee has decided to hold another "Fun Day" as the last was so successful. This will take place on Saturday 3 November 1990 and Fancy Dress may be worn. In the meantime the branch has been in touch with the following:– Bill and Jean Young (address not to hand – Ed), Dennis Green of Leeds, Dave Oliver of Gristhorpe, Peter Hornby (Merseyside branch), Jimmy Lindsay (Scottish branch), Mrs. Dorothy McDonald of Essex who kindly enclosed a generous donation, Jack Ammonds off Harrogate also with generous donation, George Gray (South Midlands branch), Roy and Lily Lamond (Scottish branch), Bill Moss of Northallerton who in turn has been in touch with "Tug" Wilson of Durham, Ian Proud of Sevenoaks, Kent and Barry Linnell of Bridlington.

R.S.

SCOTTISH BRANCH

Chairman: C. Kennedy, West Lodge, Clayton, St. Andrews, Fife KY16 9YE. Tel: (0334) 87242.

Secretary/Treasurer: J. Lindsay, 2 Lomond Bank, Glenfarg, Perthshire PH12 9PF. Tel: (05773) 382.

Hon. Chaplain to the Branch: The Very Rev. Professor R. Craig, C.B.E., Hon.C.F. (former Moderator of the Church of Scotland, and former Minister of Scottish Memorial Church of St. Andrew in Jerusalem.)

★

Our first luncheon for 1990 took place on 4 March and a record crowd of 75 members, friends and relatives sat down to an excellent meal. In the absence of the branch chairman, Jimmy Lindsay did the honours and welcomed the assembly. He was able to welcome the guest of the branch, Monica Irwin, widow of the late Ken Irwin of Innerleithen. Others who were also welcomed were John and Margaret Brown, who is the latest recruit to the branch and who travelled up from Berwick upon Tweed to be with us, Mrs. Pat Field, Mrs. Margaret Gellatly and Mrs. Grace Cumming, all Palestine Police widows whose husbands had been regular in attendance at our meetings. Others welcomed were the grandsons of the Lamonds and the Ritchies, Roderick McDonald and Alan Wilson. Bob and Jean Connor brought guests and Alan and Margaret Foster, who were home on leave from the Far East, brought guests from Aberdeen. Donald and Ann Gray brought two guests. (See Sick Parade – Ed).

The March meeting being the Annual General Meeting it should be reported that the present office bearers were re-elected. The sale of Derby Sweepstake tickets went well and we await the commission from sales, which combined with Scottish Branch collections, over £200.00 will be sent to The School for the Blind in Bethlehem. There was an enquiry at the A.G.M. as to whether a Branch Member must be a member of The Association, to attend branch meetings. This was passed to The General Secretary who disclosed that although this requisite was not in the Constitution, it was hoped that branches would make this a requirement for all their members. A member not paying the Association (London) subscription would not receive the newsletter.

SCOTTISH BRANCH

DINNER-DANCE

THE CITY MILLS HOTEL – PERTH

Saturday, 25th August, 1990

Tickets £10.00 each Dress informal

Contact J. M. Lindsay
2 Lomond Bank, Glenfarg, Perthshire PH2 9RF
as early as possible for details, accommodation, etc.

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All readers will hopefully be reminded that The Scottish Branch will be holding its Annual Dinner-Dance at The City Mills Hotel, Perth on 25 August 1990. All bookings for Dinner and the hotel through Jimmy Lindsay please. Dinner tickets £10.00 per head and most reasonable at that. (See separate advertisement – Ed). But before that event we shall be having a summer meeting on Sunday 10 June at the same hotel (City Mills) where the cost of luncheon will be subsidised to some extent from branch funds. I leave you all with this thought. It was nice to see in newsletter 158 (last issue) the name of Paddy Erskine. I wonder if he remembers how I used to trounce him at tennis at Nazareth?

J.M.L

AUSTRALIA (New South Wales Branch)

Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer: A. V. Leadbetter, 48a Kingslangley Road, Greenwich, New South Wales 2965, Australia.

★

We have been in touch with Sophie Woodward and a friend from Kenya Police days who came up from Adelaide and Frank and Iris Ormsby took them to Ettalong where they had lunch with Bill Anderson as well as Harry and Betty Steel. The party then adjourned to Harry's home for a good old natter. Frank was also pleased to receive a telephone call from Don Cartwright of Central Council, London, who was passing through Sydney en route to New Zealand. We were friends in Kenya days. I can confirm that the address given to Bob White at the foot of Page 37 in issue 157 (December 1989) is correctly spelled. In the Tracer section of the same issue an enquiry sought the whereabouts of R. W. Grist, a former Kenya Police Armourer. He has not been seen around Sydney for many a year.

Meanwhile our Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer person, A. V. (Arch) Leadbetter, is not all that fit at present time (see Sick Parade – Ed) so do not burden him with too much correspondence.

F.O.

We are indebted to Frank Ormsby for keeping us informed every quarter of branch news in New South Wales. (Editor's note).

AUSTRALIA (Victoria Branch)

Chairman: A. C. W. (Allan) Bolton, 7 Bowen Street, Richmond, Victoria 3121.

Vice-Chairman: R. L. (Reg) Priestley, 4 Cliffdale Avenue, Deception Bay, Queensland 4508.

Secretary: Frank Baines, 7/10 Dickens Street, Elwood, Victoria 3184. Tel: 534 6510.

Treasurer: Cedric Coxsedge, 8 Leicester Street, North Balwyn, Victoria 3104.

Committee: Messrs. W. W. E. P. (Gus) Hardy, Arthur Judd, Pat Kelliher and S. A. (Sidney) Mann.

★

We had a very interesting note from "Jebel" Hill of sunny Queensland who was good enough to provide us with a print out of members recorded at Headquarters as fully paid up and in receipt of the O.C.A. Newsletter. According to the list, now that Paddy Erskine has gone on "Home Leave" and is not signing on again is: Victoria 24 – Tasmania 1 – New South Wales 25 – West Australia 16 – A.C.T. 5 – South Australia 13 - Queensland 7. This makes a total of 91 on the mailing list. It is unfortunate that some former P.P. who are in receipt of the O.C.A. Newsletter from U.K. have not made contact and by the same token some who receive Taht el Taht have not made contact with H.Q. Such is the nature of man. It is also known that there are a number of ex-P.P. who remain outside either field. We keep trying to round them up and can only keep working at it.

This branch is anticipating a visit from an Association V.I.P. in or about March 1991. The V.I.P. will be in the likeness of John Foster, General Secretary of the Association who will be making a "Royal Progress" from Perth, W.A. to the East Coast via Melbourne. We were pleased to see Muff Garside, the late Wiggy Bennet's daughter, and her husband Ted when they made a brief stop in Melbourne in December last. On another note, the branch A.G.M. and dinner took place on 25 November at which the following were present: Bill Bailey and Mrs. Allayne Russell, Frank Baines, Allan and Fleur Bolton, Ernie, Liese and Harry Brice, Cedric and Joan Coxsedge, Jimmy and Christine Cracknell, Moya Dunn, David Golds, Mary Gow, Wally and Kitty Hand, Tom Hanlon, George Collier, Gus and Margot Hardy, Arthur and Pat Judd, Pat and Georgina Kelliher, Sid and Val Mann, Georgina Pratt, George and Shirley Robinson and Cyril Trower. Not a bad turn out.

F.B.

We are glad to report that a lot of members of The Victoria Branch can read and write and this literary trend produced a good crop of letters this last quarter. We mention but three. Firstly E. C. (Winnie) Sharp wrote from 7/1 Ireland Street, Burwood, Victoria 3125 who hastened to correct a small point in one of Onbashi's articles in Issue 155 (June 1989) on "Some Thoughts on Massoudieh". He correctly points out that the top man in Anebta village was Hafez Hamdallah and not the name given. Within seconds of the newsletter arriving, this was realised and a head was hung in shame. Visions of Jack Fullbrook's ghost came and haunted the Onbashi section of the editorial office and we waited for letters from such as Oliver Lodge to arrive and award a hundred lines. As it was only two members reponded to the error. One simply said, "Are you quite sure?" and the other was a pleasant and kindly admonishment from Winnie Sharp. He goes on to tell of the time that he and Slooge Hawley were escort to a prison van and were ambushed by Hafez and their vehicle shot up. Next day a party visited the scene and Hafez apologised for shooting at him. "I did not know it was you," he said. Something rather nice about that story. Mary Gow of 34 Springfield Road,

Blackburn, Victoria 3130 also wrote and she particularly enjoyed the 40th Anniversary celebrations laid on by Victoria Branch. 40th Anniversary since the Stand Down that is and this presumably really refers to 40 years of survival of the Association since the Stand Down. Mary is the widow of our old friend 2929 W. C. (Bill) Gow, a 1941 chap of Haifa fame, first with Port and Marine and afterwards, at V.R.D. Unfortunately he was discharged on medical grounds in 1945 but managed to return a year afterwards on the I.P.C. staff. A marvellous letter that was much appreciated by our General Secretary.

Finally, we have a report of a letter from Georgina Pratt of 13 McIntyre Street, East Geelong, Victoria 3219 to Alfred (Jebel) Hill. Georgina has her own valued collection of happy memories of former days and some of the magnificent characters that made up our family band of comrades. Nearly all departed, sadly enough.

Editor

AUSTRALIA (Western Australia Branch)

Chairman: S. G. Thompson, 25 Tamarisk Way, Woodlands, Western Australia 6018.

Secretary/Treasurer: Charles Eadon-Clarke, 9 Sutherland Close, Guildford, Western Australia 6055.

★

An exhausted pigeon arrived towards the end of February with some interesting news about P.P. activities in Western Australia. It contained a sort of Balance Sheet concerning the A.G.M. luncheon that took place at the Nookenburra Hotel and it would appear that there is only a small amount outstanding which is a sort of near miss balance. We were interested to learn that the following are paid up members: Messrs. S. G. Thompson, P. Gregan, R. Manchip, A. Love, A. Jerrat, R. Dracup, C. Eadon-Clarke, F. Pizer, A. Dickenson, D. Bowman, G. Newman and J. May. The date of the A.G.M. was 10 February 1990 and a nice gesture was set when all stood in silent tribute for a short while in memory of the late Roger Brooks M.B.E. Also as new members, or at least first time attenders, Roy Manchip and Lucien Cromb were welcomed. And the Gregan family and the Morrissons joined them from up country. Also it was nice to see Andrew Love and David Bowman, not seen for some time. By all accounts a very good gathering which closed with the singing of The Holy City. It should here be added that news that The General Secretary would be visiting Perth (and District) in January 1991 was received with acclamation. Arrangements for such a gubernatorial visit (an appropriate word that did not defeat us – Ed), have been set in hand immediately. Ceremonial arrangements – band – fixed bayonets – red carpet – and a meal of two kangaroos cooked whole and stuffed with koala bears' eggs and sheep's eyes, washed down in ice cool Foster's lager. If the G.S. does not get all this, he is at least assured of the lager.

C.E.C.

AUSTRALIA (The parts that are left over)

A letter from Reg Priestley is always worth a double read and one posted on 9 March was no exception. He gave his address as 4 Cliffdale Avenue, Deception Bay, Queensland 4508, which of course is Australia. Having spent half his life in the travel business, Reg did not hang about and has sent an update of those he has either contacted in the P.P., would or has tried to contact or is even about to contact. Old friends of the following may therefore care to know that Norman Carswell, some 20 kilometres distant – contacted and is now retired, but not seen face to face. "Jebel" Hill contacted by letter and only about 30 kilometres distant. Both the above were former Inspectors in Palestine. H. G. H. (Tom) Tomlinson is some 1,500 kilos away and whose name is not Tom at all, by the way. He went on to serve in Malaya after Palestine and spoke of John Costello in Cairns but not actually seen for some time. Taffy Williams is also up north and has also retired from Northern Territory Prisons Service. (See Congratulations section – Ed). Just moved up to the edge of New South Wales and Queensland border country is Terry Cottam and his wife Doris, while a telephone call to Steve Murphy produced a chat with Mrs. Murphy. So there we are, a reasonable update on the P.P. gang in this big, sunny, overheated State, that many of us would wish to retire to in U.K. wintertime. In a way, Queensland is Australia's answer to the Jordan valley, but no Jordan and, for that matter, no valley.

Ian Oxley in far off South Australia may be interested to know that his name came to mind in Bournemouth recently, when this editor attended a function and found himself sitting opposite his brother, Colin. Ian, who was B/Const. 4102 in Palestine of October 1944 vintage, went on to do police service in Kenya before settling in The Antipodes. He now resides at P.O. Box 220, Port Vincent 5581, South Australia and although Mr. Editor has not met him personally, beautific thoughts went through his mind at the mention of another P.P. chap as, of course, it should have done.

Editor

NEW ZEALAND BRANCH (Auckland)

Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer: N. S. (Paddy) Stewart, 39 Walter Street, Takapuna, Auckland 9, New Zealand. Tel: 010-649-463 485.

★

Although no dispatch from Branch Secretary, we had a welcome letter from Gordon Davidson of 83 Eatwell Avenue, Paraparaumu Beach, nr. Wellington, New Zealand. His delightful letter will feature in Home Notes in the September issue.

The area has either been visited by Central Council representative in the person of Don Cartwright or is about to be visited and doubtless inspected by the General Secretary. Bit like an I.G.'s inspection in the old days. More of all this anon.

Editor

FADING MEMORIES RECALLED – PART ONE

In 1947 I was coming to the end of my apprenticeship at Chatham Dockyard. I had always wanted to be a policeman and I saw hoardings covered by that well-known advertisement for the Palestine Police. "£20.00 a month and all found." My wage as a journeyman was 102/- per week, out of which I paid income tax, so I applied to join The Force.

There were the usual interviews and medical in London and in due time, tickets and labels arrived. On a certain date I was to board a special train for Liverpool and there board the T.S. Samaria (what an appropriate name). On boarding the ship we were taken to our quarters. We did not travel troopdeck – that high class accommodation was reserved for the "brutal and licentious soldiery". Our quarters were really dormitories with a number of two-tier bunks. There were also P.P. chaps returning from U.K. leave and these were detailed to act as "sea daddies", as the Navy says. We messed in the dining saloon – all nice table cloths with the right number of knives and forks.

Once at sea we hit bad weather. Rough seas and heavy wind and rain. We had it all the way down the English coast and across the Bay of Biscay. The weather eased about a day from Gibraltar. The Captain announced that he was increasing speed so that we could see "Gib" by daylight and the poor old Samaria trembled from stem to stern and she might have made 17 knots. But we did see "Gib" in the evening light and I thought it a very impressive sight. The "Med" was like the proverbial travel poster, just blue skies and calm seas. We mixed with the Army W.O.'s and N.C.O.'s in the Smoking Room to play the old game Housey-Housey. Four of us clubbed together and, with the few "bob" at our disposal, joined the game. We made enough to keep us in beer for the evening, plus enough for a kitty for the next night. Night after night we covered our expenses plus a little extra. At Malta some of the troops disembarked but we were not allowed ashore. I was not worried. My grandfather was an ex-R.N. and always said, "It's the island of yells, bells and smells".

In Egypt we disembarked and boarded a train. Then at Kantara we came face to face with a transit camp. Miles of vacant tents in the sand. The Officers' Mess was some sort of building which we were allowed to use and we drank it dry of beer. It was dark when the Palestine train came. Because the train travelled slowly we were told to keep guard on our kit. It was not unknown for thieves to board the slow moving train and steal everything. The journey through Sinai to Palestine was very adventurous (detailes omitted – Ed). In the morning we arrived at Gaza where we left the train and were fed. Then onto to some three ton trucks with armoured car escort bound for Jenin. We meandered through the country, dropping off the chaps returning from leave. We were told that if the convoy is mined, as soon as safe, jump out and hit the ditch and let the escort look after things. A nice thought but one is young and one didn't worry all that much. So there we were. Lovely weather and bowling along merrily when Bang! I saw bits of tyre in the air. The convoy stopped and we hit the ditch. But false alarm. It was just a tyre blowing – phew!

So, we at last arrived at Jenin which one ex-service recruit a few days later described as "another bleedin' Caterham". Funny place we thought with its

narrow gauge railway running the length of the parade ground. One could not call it a square, could one? It was long and narrow. One could never refer to Jenin as Shangri-la. No training depot ever is but it was the most efficiently organised place I've ever seen. Even the squadding was sensible. Ex-service types in one squad and civvies in another. We were taken to a tatty old wooden army hut. No, it was not filthy, nothing was even slightly dirty in Jenin, it was just well worn. Les Potts was our squad sergeant and he spoke to us gently. We are going to the cinema, just fall in in three ranks and try and keep in step please.

Ha, ha. Once we had been sworn, checked and doubled checked we were handed over to our respective sergeants. Les Potts asked "All sorted out? All been sworn in? Sure? Good". Then his mask dropped. Snarl, snarl. "Hair cuts the lot of you". In those days men did wear decent hair cuts butthat was not good enough for the P.P. Hair cut we had with neck razored and next week a hair cut with neck clipped and so on. We started a new dimension to our lives.

Peter South

This interesting anecdote of Peter's life in Palestine is to be continued next issue. Slightly edited by discretion of the Editor, mostly because of space.

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(A descendant of the founder)

TIME WARP

The mounted column progressed slowly northwards over the Jisr Vauxhall that spanned the Nahr Thames and the sergeant in charge gazed at the unexciting flat terrain on the northern bank. He had four British Constables with him, proudly wearing the uniform of the Palestine Police. Yet they seemed somehow old with greying hair and their previously immaculate uniforms were stained with the grime of travel. The horses were tired and so were the riders. In fact they had been in the saddle for so long that they dimly remembered when they had started out on this marathon journey into the unknown. They now pressed on, only sustained by the discipline of their force and the confidence they had in their leader who kept any self doubt about the task unshared. "Somewhere", the sergeant muttered to himself, "somewhere out there is our goal. I'm sure we are nearly there."

The column pressed on, almost mechanically, along the straight Sharia Jisr Vauxhall then after half a kilometre turned right into Sharia Francis. A dismal area. Men and horses missed the hills of sunny Palestine and felt depressed by this northern climate. At last the sergeant reigned in behind the tall Burj in the shadow of the Latin Qaneesi Westminster and gazed up at an inn sign. It read The Cardinal. "Prepare to dismount", he ordered. Then finally after ordering the dismount, he ordered the patrol to wait outside the inn, while he entered the darkened interior to investigate. "Had they come to the end of their journey?" he wondered.

When his eyes had become used to the change of light he noticed amid the throng of customers, a solitary figure in a corner. The man sat surrounded by a sea of empty glasses. He was a man of his own age, greying, elderly but with the eyes of someone who had travelled far in his time. Most particularly the sergeant noticed the man's tie. It was THE TIE. His face lit up as he strode across – as Stanley must have strode towards Livingstone a century earlier. "What kept you?" said the stranger, "I'd almost given you up for lost." "Then I'm at the right place?" said the sergeant with relief. "At last, it's taken half a lifetime to get here." "You are in the right place all right," replied the stranger, "so get your men in here and take some well earned refreshment." "I could murder a bottle of Gold Star," said the sergeant. "Well, let me put you right. Firstly they don't sell Gold Star, and secondly they don't take Spinneys chits. Apart from that the beer is not too bad." The sergeant stepped outside to tell the men they had arrived at their destination. "Make sure the horses are comfortable," he ordered, "then get in here." At that moment he woke up. In spite of much thought he never did identify the man in the corner.

ROTIDE

WHO'S FOR TENNIS?

Who's for tennis? A cry not often heard in Palestine away from the bigger town. Yet the Palestine Police had its complement of tennis heroes in much the same way as in other sporting activities. It is strange that the local population did not appear particularly endeared to the art specially when a tenuous connection can be made with a Middle East, if not an Indian origin. In my dictionary, which is Chambers – also known as the Authors' Dictionary – and in my view the best and the least pedantic lexicon of all, tennis is shown as: "An ancient game played with a ball, rackets (originally palms of the hands) and net in a specially constructed building or an enclosed court". That is all it says so that by such a definition there is little to assist a Martian to comprehend the principles of the game or if explained in Braille, nothing to assist a blind man to understand what the game is all about.

King Henry VIII of England certainly played tennis and there is reason to believe that his father did likewise. It was well known to the French Court of the time and was popular among the French aristocracy. But La Belle France cannot claim to have invented the game, as some have suggested. For a start the Crusaders found some form of tennis when they arrived in the Middle East where it was afterwards regarded as "godless pursuit for people without the blessing of intelligence". A view laid down for the guidance of Moslems long after the Crusaders had been driven off. Perhaps this is why it did not catch on south of Istanbul and why 800 years later it is in Europe that the world stops working during Wimbledon Week while everyone marvels at the energy and determination expended by those who appear in that handsome suburb of London as tennis stars of world renown.

But never mind. As in so many other things the Palestine Police could be counted on to find some of their number who could turn a nifty back hand, or forward volley when occasion demanded. But records extant show only one trophy. It was simply called The Tennis Cup which in Force Orders was shown as: "To be competed for annually and awarded to the winner of Tennis Singles in an inter-district police championship". The cup was presented by I. Gruth Esquire as early as 1927, but there is no record of early winners inscribed on it. These days it is in possession of The Association and it appears once a year at the annual reunion dinner after someone on Central Council has been deputed to clean it. As a matter of fact it is a handsome silver trophy by any standard. But who was Mr. Gruth? We are informed that he was one time manager of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) Ltd. – Jerusalem Branch.

This particular bank, and certainly this particular branch, was very well known to Palestine Policemen. Many had accounts there for one thing. Many more stood for hours on duty at a "fixed point" to guard the establishment and search customers and their posessions if necessary. Others were involved in clearing the area every time it was blown up, or was threatened with being blown up, or at least given warning of a bomb scare because someone had carelessly left a briefcase behind. This particular bank even got itself enshrined in Chapter 16 of the estimable Mr. Khatib's book on colloquial Arabic that we had to study at the Depot. British policemen actually died in defence of the bank, so that whether in anticipation of all this the good Mr. Gruth made such a generous

donation of a tennis cup, or whether it was in sheer gratitude of the part played by police in Jerusalem social life of the time, is not known. But it is an expensive and handsome trophy for which we are now, and were at the time, truly grateful and we have been reminded by the late Ted (Cossie) Cosgrove that some fine speeches were exchanged when it was presented.

What we can point out is that after 1942 it became the practice to record the trophy winners and we have the following names against each year: 1942 – H. R. Townsend; 1943 – R. E. Creed; 1944 – G. Dulquart; 1945 – V. H. D. Cannings; 1946 – W. M. Hopley; 1947 – Rice B/Const.; some of these names are legendary in other fields so that adding tennis to their laurels makes it all the more interesting. We are not sure about Townsend and at first thought him to be the Senior Officer of that name but the initials are wrong. The D.S.P. being Regional Fullbrook Townesend who joined the force in 1922 and was still there in 1946. Perhaps someone else can tell us who H. R. Townsend was. R. E. Creed is, of course, Rupert Creed, one of the two Creed brothers who served in the Force and a 1937 man who went on to distinguish himself as an A.S.P. in the Signals Section. V. H. D. Cannings needs no introduction and is, of course, "Junior" Cannings of Palestine Cricket and later Hampshire County Cricket fame, and who still sometimes can be seen at the Annual Reunion Dinner in London. Evidently swapping willow for the racket did not put him off his form. The last name to conjure is W. M. (Bill) Hopley no less. A man with a thousand friends in many ways, recently of Kenya but now to be found in U.K. pastures. So we have discovered at this late hour that Bill is a dark horse in the tennis world. Fancy that.

But were there other tennis trophies about which we have no knowledge? In short are our sporting trophies' records incomplete? Can anyone give more details? Superintendent Bill Wainright is on record as a useful tennis player. Tennis was played quite extensively in Haifa, Jaffa and Jerusalem. Even Nablus had a tennis court which, although hopelessly under used, actually drew "crowds" to watch those at play. I recall on one very hot day in August 1944'ish, some 20 local Britons sweated it out in a knock-out competition and somebody must have won it. For what were they playing? The crowd was massive by local standards and as I gazed from the rear of the C.I.D. building, I counted six small boys entranced with the proceedings. A check from the billiard room window in the club upstairs confirmed seven, if one counted a wee lad of about three years of age. That was the true size of the crowd.

Could it be that tennis "the ungodly sport" had been expunged from the racial memory of the people of The Holy Land following the interdict of The Caliph and Sultan Suleiman the Great? If so, at least one local Arab offended the spirit of this ancient ruler. In 1933 an Arab leader played tennis to some sort of championship level and it is a matter of official record that Arab demonstrations that subsequently led to the much publicised Arab riots in Jaffa, were delayed by several days so that the tennis tournament could be completed. Now that is something completely different from "ungodly pursuit" as we understand it. Many of us would subscribe to the view that of the two issues, tennis and not rioting is the lesser evil. So next time someone says "Whose for tennis?" pause and consider the possible alternative. It might lead to a riot.

Onbashi

TO THOSE WHO FELL

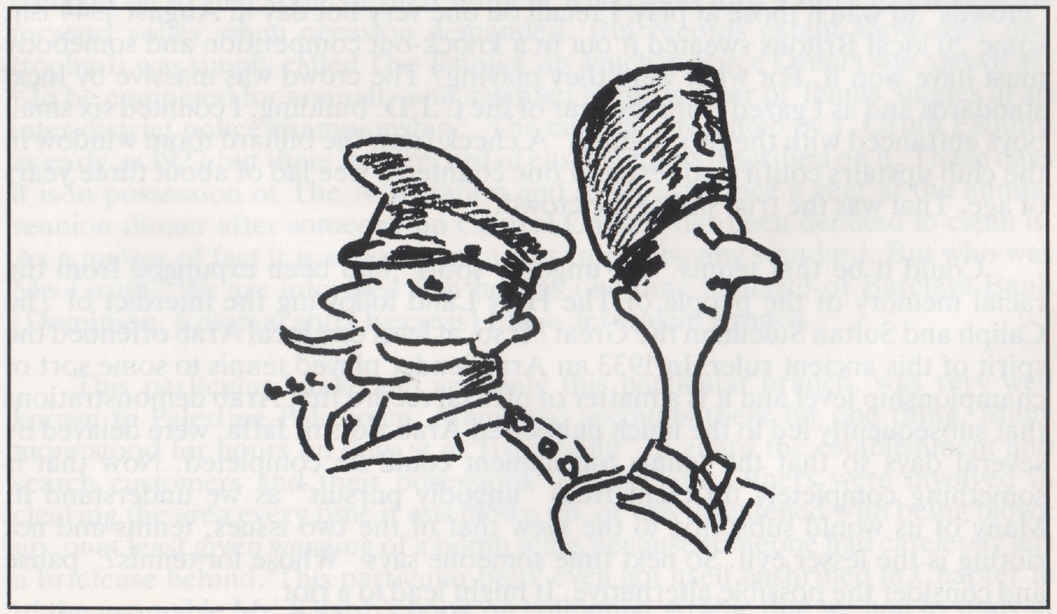
They lie on Holy Zion's Hill
And they alone are left
In that far country now bereft
Of comrades who remember still

Sleep on 'neath lofty Carmel's slopes.
Sleep on in Ramle Vale.
You passed beyond this earthly pale
When you were young, when earthly manhood's hopes
Were yours: the gaiety, the dreams of youth,
Shattered and stilled at duty's door.

For that fine Force that is no more
You gave your all, white headstones furnish proof
And show the cost of wardenship
In a land that is above all lands
The fulcrum of our world.

John Doody
(Deceased)

APOLOGIES TO BRIAN ROBB, 8TH ARMY ARTIST



SUSPICIOUS PHENOMENA
A.S.P.s Jerusalem

NOTICE

ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

SATURDAY, 6th OCTOBER, 1990

THE WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL
CONFERENCE CENTRE
Victoria Street, SW1
(Entrance down slope to right of Cathedral)
6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m.
Minimum charge £13.50
(Tickets for the dinner only from General Secretary
BEFORE 29th September)

and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at
"The Cardinal", Francis Street, SW1
3.15 p.m. in the afternoon
(nearest underground: Victoria)

ANNUAL CENOTAPH PARADE

SUNDAY, 7th OCTOBER, 1990

SPECIAL EFFORT PLEASE!

Horse Guards Avenue, 10.00 a.m.
(nearest underground: Westminster, Embankment or
Trafalgar Square)

Fall in 10.40 a.m. March: 10.55 a.m.
Service: 11.00 a.m.

Followed by a gathering at the Cardinal (Headquarters)

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS UNIQUE AND MOVING OCCASION

NON-MARCHERS Assemble King Charles St. at 10.30 a.m.

OBITUARY NOTICES

It is with extreme regret that I report the death of Patrick Joseph McGill M.B.E., B.E.M. a former Deputy Superintendent in the Force, which he joined on 18 January 1931. Paddy McGill was to become very well known in Palestine and served in many parts of this country as he ploughed his way through the ranks. He had a natural power of command and often knocked posts, stations and whole divisions into shape when thought to have slipped a bit in standards. After the Stand Down he became Officer Commanding The British Field Force in Eritrea under the O.E.T.A. Administration, a land in which many former members of the Force served with distinction. According to old copies of the newletter, he spent a short time in Oman before serving in Gold Coast/Ghana. In more recent years he could be found at 18 St. Georges Crescent, Droitwich, Worcestershire WR9 8DY.

On 31 March 1990, Paddy died quite suddenly at the age of 82 and we have lost someone many will recall with fondness and considerable respect. There was a funeral service and requiem mass at The Church of the Sacred Heart, Droitwich on 9 April followed by cremation at Worcester. The Association was represented at the funeral by S. W. (Micky) Hills of Central Council, Fred and Ann Gardiner and Bob Rowberry. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his widow Ruth, daughter Patricia and son-in-law Paul in such a tremendous loss, moreover a loss that many old comrades will feel also. After such a busy and adventurous life in the service of others, may he rest in peace.

Micky Hills

I regret to inform all old comrades of the dealth of ex-A.S.P. Walter George Smith who died on 4 February 1990. Smudger, as we former Sawaries called him, was an old companion of mine and I shall never forget the many happy days and nights we spent on mounted patrols in the Nazareth District during 1937-1938 period. Walter was a very smart and efficient police officer and as an ex-British Army cavalryman he taught me all I know about horses and the very rigid discipline of mounted duties. He was also very well known and liked during his service at the Depot. Walter joined the Force in March 1932 with the number 1070 and well earned his promotion through the two Sergeants' ranks and then Inspector until he was an Acting A.S.P. in 1945 and full A.S.P. a year later. We kept in touch in later years after returning to England and I shall miss him greatly. We are indebted to his daughter Mrs. Valerie Coppard for the sad details of his death and it should be added that he died peacefully at Lewes Hospital in East Sussex on 4 February 1990. Although he had recovered from a hip operation last August, he did not get mobile again. To Valerie and, of course, her mother, with whom Smudger shared his life for 51 years, such a loss will be impossible to overcome. On behalf of all old comrades, I extend our very deepest sympathy.

A. F. L. (Bill) Williams, C.P.M.

I regret to announce the death on Friday 23 March 1990, of B/Const. 389 David Steggles of 7 Sherwood Walk, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, at the age of 64 years. David, who had been a wireless operator with L.O.P., was the only other survivor, with his great friend Paddy Lyness (see Obituary Notice in newsletter 156) when they both received appalling injuries in that terrible ambush in Tel Aviv in September 1947. Dave, like Paddy, carried a bullet in his body for the rest of his life and for the last few years his injuries prevented him from working. On medical advice he and his wife moved to Ibiza in November 1989 but there was a sudden deterioration in his condition which forced him to return to this country where he spent the last few weeks of this life in Myton Hospice, Leamington Spa.

His funeral took place at the Lillington Free Church, Leamington Spa and was attended by a large number of people. The Association was represented by his life long friend from boyhood days in Coventry, John Thompson (lately of Ajami P.S. Jaffa) – Les Faulkes (Secretary Midlands Branch) – Lew Boffin (lately J.O.P. Jaffa and Secretary South Midland Branch) and Gerald Green (H.O.P Haifa) who was also representing Mrs. Joan Lyness of Belfast, the widow of Paddy.

We offer our heartfelt sympathy to Dave's widow, Frances, and his son and daughter in their great loss. To us who are left, it was an honour and a privilege to have served with such a brave and honourable man.

John Thompson
B/Const. 2717

It is with sorrow that I inform old comrades of the death of Dennis (Danny) Darby of 31 Wharton Street, Finsbury, London WC1 2PC. He died suddenly at his home on 25 January 1990 at the age of 75. Danny joined the Force on 13 February 1940 and served until the end of the mandate. As far as I know his only station was as C.I.D. driver in Records Department, Jerusalem. Although there is reason to believe he spent some time on the mounted branch. Danny was a very keen sportsman and a well known boxer in Palestine. He was also a wrestler and he continued with this sport after his return to the U.K. until he retired from it in 1953.

A funeral service took place at The Roman Catholic Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Rosebury Avenue, Finsbury and this was followed by a cremation service at St. Pancras Crematorium in East Finchley, North London. At this event, the Association was represented by Len Sexton, Chairman of London Branch and myself. Our condolences go to his widow, Eileen and her family, Robert, Mark, Lorraine and Denise.

Micky Hills

I recently heard that T. P. (Paddy) McConnell, recent years of P.O. Box 152, Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820, U.S.A., died on 14 September 1989, apparently after suffering from a serious heart attack sometime previous. He died in his shower. Paddy served in The Irish Guards during the war and joined the Palestine Police where he bore the number 87. After Palestine he went on to serve in Malaya, Kenya and Cyprus Police Forces where he held the rank of Superintendent. I got to know him quite well and would say he had a record very few could equal and was not only a very fine person but had a delightful Irish sense of humour.

This information came to me through his widow and I now take the opportunity of offering my personal sympathy as well as that of all Paddy's many former comrades and friends in four police forces. His loss is keenly felt.

Hugh (Scottie) Johnstone-Scott

A lady who was much loved and respected by those old comrades who knew her, has sadly died and I refer to Margaret Cleasby of 47 Kullaroo Road, Summerland Point, New South Wales 2259, Australia. She, the dearest wife of Mike, died on 14 February 1990 from cancer following a sudden collapse on Boxing Day. She was well known among N.S.W. Branch members and in the days when the branch was much bigger and more active was frequently to be seen at all our gatherings alongside her husband.

A service was held at St. Peter's Church, Swansea, near Newcastle, N.S.W. on 19 February which was attended by Mike and his sons Paul and John, and daughter Anne with their families and friends. Old comrades present were: Jim and Vera Hegarty, Bill Anderson, Harry and Betty Steel, Fred and Beatrice Sylvester, Tom and Betty Harney, Myra Jeffrey, Frank and Iris Ormsby. This was followed by a private cremation. The Association has lost a wonderful, warm and caring friend and our deepest sympathy goes out to Mike and his family.

Frank Ormsby

We are sorry to have to report the death of former A.S.P. Charles John Barton, a Life Member of this Association. He was 76 and died on 24 January 1990. For a long time he had lived at P.O. Box 383, Launcester 7250, Tasmania and we are indebted to his daughter Mary Barton for information. She wrote from 29 Short Street, Joandanna 6060, Western Australia. Charles joined the Force on 11 June 1936 and served until The Stand Down. He made many friends in many parts of Palestine and after retiring in Tasmania he was often accorded the distinction of being the most southerly P.P. in terms of residence, although we do have one other member of the Association on that island. We extend our deepest sympathy to his friends and relatives and particularly his daughter Mary.

Editor

Friends and former comrades of Harry Abnett who resided at 6 Lines Terrace, Chatham, Kent ME4 4NA will be saddened to learn that he died on 14

February 1990 at the age of 61 years. Harry was B/Const. 1729 in Palestine and he joined the Force in 1946. Most of his service was in and around Tel Aviv and he became particularly well known for his skill at boxing in which he was continuously engaged at both Division, District and Force levels. In 1947 he became the target of terrorists near Jaffa and was severly wounded. He returned to the U.K. the same year but in due time recovered sufficiently to resume his boxing career.

Harry was a loyal member of the O.C.A., but because of health problems he always regretted being unable to participate in the social activities. A funeral service was held at The Medway Crematorium, Kent on 23 February whereat the Force Flag was draped across the coffin at the request of relatives. The Association was represented at the service by J. L. Niven, R. Pemble, T. Isted and M. Hills all from Central Council. Southern-Eastern Counties branch was represented by: H. Bearman, H. Gambrill, G. Meekins and I. Howe. We extend our condolences to his widow, Marjorie and her four fine sons, Peter, Chris, Terry and Martin.

Micky Hills

FURTHER TO OBITUARY NOTICES ALREADY GIVEN

Further to the information given on Page 54 of Newsletter 158 (March 1990)

I regret to have to announce the death of Ernest (Hank) Summers who lived at 4 Woodland Close, Lanivet, Nr. Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 5OF and who died on Friday 26 January 1990 following very poor health extending back for about ten years or so. Ernest was formerly B/M/Const. 542 in Palestine and joined the Force on 22 October 1939, serving until 1 February 1945. We are informed by his wife that he served at Enab, Nablus and Beit Jibrin and that his greatest pleasure came in recounting the old times in Palestine and that he often would talk of his love for his horse "Nasty" and never ceased to recall to himself memories of life on mounted patrol. Ernest married his dear wife, Joan, at Dulwich in 1945 and at the funeral service I had the opportunity to chat with her. There are no children.

There was a funeral service at Lanivet Parish Church on 2 February at which, by request, The Holy City was played. The Association was represented by myself (Pat Bowerbank), Dennis Munro, Bill Powell, Bill Martin and Shan Wilson, who lives nearby. His widow, Joan seemed very touched that we had turned out and on behalf of everyone I extend our deepest sympathy from all Ernest's old comrades throughout the world.

Pat Bowerbank

I, in my turn, wish to refer to the death of Eddie Summers and would like to add some important information about him for the benefit of those who did not know him well. He was not in the M.P.F.S. with me but was stationed with me at Abu Ghosh Police Station, some eight miles out from Jerusalem, which all will

recall was on a hill opposite a Catholic church with a large statue of Our Lady outside it. The priest in charge was a Frenchman who had been an officer in World War 1, then afterwards came to Palestine and built that church. I worked with Eddie there for about 10 months. He was a Londoner, like myself and we became good friends. He often calmed me down when I was angry and cheered me up when I was depressed. It so happens his was the last friendly face that said farewell to me when I made my departure from Palestine. When I joined the O.C.A. we renewed our friendship. His Christmas cards always had a horse on them as he belonged to an organisation for the welfare of those noble animals. I extend my sincere condolences to his wife, who nursed him for a long him and for myself I feel the loss of a genuine and true friend.

Harry Dobson

SHORT NOTICES OF DEATH

We have a sad duty to report the death of a Donor Member, John Y. R. Wigan who died after a long and bitter struggle with cancer in October 1989. John was the son of a famous father in Middle East circles. His father was the late Major Yeamans Ramsey Douglas Wigan who first saw service in the Palestine Gendarmerie, which he joined in July 1923, then transferred with many members of that unit to found the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force in April 1926. He then served as a senior officer in that force until 1937. So it is a special blow to lose his son too. We offer our deepest sympathy to his widow Alma.

We regret to learn of the death of Mrs. Truda Simmons of 52 Oval Grange, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS26 8LT, the dear wife of T. H. (Harry) Simmons. Truda was an Austrian lady by birth and was only 66 when she died. All his pals and comrades will offer their condolences on such a loss and hope that time will prove the greater healer.

Another lady who passed away as long ago as 13 October last is Mrs. Elsie Taylor, wife of Ernest Taylor of 215 Newmann Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire S9 1LU, at the age of 78. Again all old comrades and specially those in Yorkshire Branch will offer their deepest sympathy to Ernest at such a tragic moment.

It is our sad duty to inform old comrades of the death of former B/Const. 3904 Reg J. Burton, who died on 1 August 1989. He served in the Force from 2 October 1944 until The Stand Down. We have no futher particulars on record beyond the fact that he was a lapsed member of the Association and formerly resided in Reading, Berkshire. Our deepest sympathy is extended to all relatives and friends.

We regret to have to inform readers that former B/Const. 601 Ernest W. Mitchell died on 7 March 1990 at the age of 62. He had been ill for a long time suffering from cancer. We offer our deepest sympathy to his dear wife, Vera, to whom we are indebted for the information. She has made the comment that Ernest always enjoyed reading the newsletter from cover to cover as soon as it arrived and we hope this brought a tiny bit of comfort to his distressful condition.

Another old comrade who has passed away recently is Bernard McFarlane, former B/Const. 365 in Palestine. He joined the Force in May 1941. In recent years he had been living at 9 Motcombe Grove, Headle Green, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 3TL. He will probably be best remembered by those who served in Ramleh between 1941 and The Stand Down. To his widow, Alma, we offer our deepest sympathy.

We regret to announce the death of J. G. (Paddy) Hillen formerly of the Palestine Police and afterwards of the Kenya Police who died in January 1990 in Western Australia where he had settled. We extend condolences to all and family.

A further sad event is the death of former B/M/Const. 1627 Harry Turner who, for the last few months, had resided at Lawton Manor Nursing Home, Church Lane, Church Lawton, Cheshire ST7 3D? (full postcode not known – Ed). Harry died on 9 March 1990 after deteriorating health. He leaves a daughter with whom we have been in touch and we offer her our very deepest sympathy.

Scottish Branch are lamenting the death of one of its founder members, Joseph Duthrie of 2 Altamount Road, Blairgowrie, Perthshire PH10 7NB, who died recently. After coming home from Palestine, Joe spent 30 years with the Tayside Police and was preparing to retire for the second time from his position with Trust House Forte Hotels Group. He leaves a son, Warren whom, although disabled enjoys life with his family. We all offer our deepest sympathy.

We have to report the death of former B/Sgt. 828 Leonard L. Lloyd who died on 16 April 1990 and will be best remembered for his service at Central Police Station, Jerusalem, having joined the Force in August 1942. We are indebted to Peter Sawyer of 44 Windward Close, North Beaumont Estate, Littlehampton, West Sussex for this information. Our deepest sympathy goes to Leonard's family and friends.

Charlie Heathfield has reported the sad death of Irene Willmot, widow of the late Jim (Willie) Willmot B/Sgt. 742. She lived at 36a London Road, Wrentham, Beccles, Suffolk and was aged about 83 years. Apparently she died in her sleep on the night of 10/11 April last. She had been a former Nursing Sister in Government Hospital, Jerusalem. We offer condolences to her family.

Members of the Scottish Branch attended a cremation service on 9 April 1990 in memory of Mrs. Hilda Thomson. This lady was the widow of the late John Thomson, a former B/Inspector in Palestine who died a little while ago. It is doubtful if Hilda ever recovered from the shock of his death. She had been in poor health in recent months. We offer condolences to her family and friends.

PALESTINE POLICE – O.C.A.

BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

Objects: To relieve need, hardship and distress amongst members of the association, their widows and other dependents.

Chairman: S. W. (Mickie) Hills, K.P.M., B.E.M.
Flat 57, Kemp House, 103 Berwick Street, London W1V 3PN
Telephone: 071-437 4483

Secretary: S. P. Johnson
19 The Crest, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 5NJ
Telephone: Southend-on-Sea (0702) 521805

(Registered Charity No. 282492)

GREETINGS SECTION

HOWETH, Bill (Ginger) – 32 Etal Crescent, Primsoe, Jarrow, Tyne and Wear NE32 3RD sends greetings to all who have visited or written to him during his present incapacity.

LAMOND, Roy – Beit Tiberia, Knockard Road, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5HJ sends salaams to Malcolm Slay, Mrs. Min Perry, Ted Garner, Harry Cummings, Sam Summerland all of the good old days in Tiberias 1931. To Dick Greenwell and all the traffic chaps and Brigadier Rymer-Jones.

NEWMAN, John – Grays Inn, Napoleon Street, Jamestown, Island of St. Helena, South Atlantic sends greetings and best wishes to all and special greetings to Don Cartwright.

MINSHALL, J. B. (Johnny) – Freshwinds, Eyton Lane, Baschurch, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 2JN sends greetings and salaams to: Mr. and Mrs. Editor, Micky Hills, Terry Shand, Jack Ritchie, Kenneth Price and Mildred (now in U.S.A.), Lew Boffin and Pam, Wally Smith and wife (ex-Law. Depot), and hoping he is feeling better, Gordon Mason and wife, John Gammon and wife and all other ex-P.P.s known and unknown.

DOBSON, Harry – 11 Laarne Avenue, Rosanna, Melbourne, Victoria 3084, Australia sends salaams to Norman Anderson in Sweden in memory of them both being patients at Government Hospital, Jerusalem in 1944.

ELGAR, George and Mona – Flat 2, 63 Castlenau, Barnes, London SW13 9RT, send greetings and thanks to all those who enquired following their discharge from hospital.

CONGRATULATIONS

John Thomas of 7 Rimmer Avenue, Liverpool, Merseyside L16 2NE and who is also long standing Treasurer of Merseyside and District Branch, received an unusual and much appreciated honour on 29 March 1990. He was presented with a Certificate of Merit by The Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside for his services to the Palestine Police Old Comrades' Association. This certificate is awarded by the Committee of ex-Service and Regimental Associations on Merseyside and The Merseyside Branch of the O.C.A. is a member. This is indeed a signal honour and well deserved in our opinion and we congratulate John for a well deserved recognition of sterling work.

Ted and June Horne slipped away from mainland U.K. on 11 April last and took a week's holiday in Guernsey. Ostensibly to "get away from it all" but in actual fact to enjoy the peace and celebrate their Ruby Wedding. But their secret got out and through this column both wish to thank those who sent cards. They are not sure who to thank for laying on the sunny weather.

We have to congratulate two people for having honours bestowed upon them and the nice thing about it is, they are man and wife. Former B/Constable (Taffy) Williams (believed to be ex-3844 J. W. Willaims – Ed) has been awarded The Australian Order of Merit (A.O.M.) for services to the Territory, following his recent retirement from The Northern Territory Prisons Service, and his wife, Telka, has been recently admitted a Member of the British Empire (M.B.E.). Splendid news and cannot think of a nicer couple to be honoured in this way.

WEDDING BELLS

We offer our best wishes to Jane Adamson, daughter of Len Adamson, Chairman of 57 Alden Road, Prescot, Merseyside L34 2SG who married Saliba on 17 March 1990 at St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem. The lovely Jane is the young lady who so thoughtfully laid a posy of flowers in the Force colours beneath the Memorial Plaque in St. George's Cathedral last October at a time to coincide with our Cenotaph Parade in London. A most touching and much appreciated gesture by the rest of us. At that time she was employed as a nurse at The St. John's Opthalmic Hospital now situated on Mount Scopus. We wish this couple much happiness in their future lives together.

BOOK SHELF

Two more members of the Association have gone into print. The first that came to hand is an interesting book by Harold Dibbens, a Donor Member but also a man of great police experience. Harold joined the Metropolitan Police long before the war, after service in The Royal Navy. In 1939 he volunteered for active service and in due process of time was seconded into the army and was commissioned (General List) but attached to the newly formed Special Investigation Section, a branch of the Corps of Military Police. He was deeply involved in the organisation of getting soldiers off the beaches and the mole at Dunkirk. In 1941 he found himself in Egypt, The Canal Zone, Alexandria and Western Desert with the S.I.B., as it had become and as a Major was A.P.M. for a considerable area. Eventually with the rank of Lt. Col. he found himself in Palestine working closely with the Palestine Police and to become a personal friend of such as Giles Bey and other senior officers. Finally he returned to the Metropolitan Police from which he retired in 1954 to take up an appointment with the Security Services. His book, Dibbens Diaries as a Sailor, Soldier, Policeman, Civil Servant 1925-1972, is full of interest as anyone could imagine. Although not about our own old Force, Harold Dibbens has remained continuously impressed by his association with us in Palestine and to the point of being a subscribing member of O.C.A. The 80 pages is modestly priced at £6.95 and can be obtained from 2 the Estuary, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 6NF. We suggest a little extra for postage. Profits go to service charities. We hope it sells well.

The second item of penmanship comes from our old friend Jack Binsley C.P.M. of 63 Selwyn Avenue, Mission Bay, Auckland, New Zealand. Jack kindly sent a section of his quite massive autobiography for us to retain in our archives. We do not know whether it is on general sale. But for the moment we aim to comment on the fact that of the four sections of his work, the part dealing with Palestine entitled Book 3 – 1930 to 1948 is impressive. Numbered from pages 185 to 369 gives us 184 pages of A4 size anecdote that has assisted us to date many incidences and place some personalities in the right place at the right time. As an association, we are grateful and wish to record a service Jack has done for the Force of greater merit than perhaps he realises. But whether this is a purchasable commodity is for Jack to decide. Those interested could write in the first instance and we suggest make a cash offer.

SICK PARADE

BROWN, C. A. (Topper) – 11 Briar Lane, Swainthorpe, Norwich, Norfolk NR14 8PJ. Has been on the Sick List and went into hospital for a part or parts to be attended to. We understand he is now out and about and back on parade. Good news.

LEE, Peter – 74 Athlone Towers, Lower Bridge Road, Durban North, Natal 4051, R.S.A. A long distance dicky bird migrating north told us that Peter is "under the weather" to some extent and we all wish him a speedy return to fair health climate again.

CASTLE, W. C. (Bill) – Flat 1, Ridge High, 84 Ridge Road, Port Elizabeth 6045, R.S.A. is another who is not all that well at the moment. We also wish him a return to full health as soon as possible.

PROUD, Ian – 33 Chipstead Park, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2SL. Has undergone a cataract operation in February at St. Thomas's Hospital. This Association owes much to Ian for his enormous support, even when worried about his eye department and everyone will wish him a successful return to reasonable eyesight and less stress and worry about his future in the eyes department.

GREENSTREET, Charles – Ravenscroft, Staplehay, Trull, Taunton, Somerset TA3 7EZ "is out of dock" we hear and a good job too. All his many friends and old comrades wish him a speedy return to full health.

STANNERS, Mrs. Audrey – 120b Elmore Street, Islington, London N1 3AH has had a period of time in The Whittington Hospital, Highgate and was still there at time of knocking this notice into shape. All her many brothers and sisters in the Association will wish her out again as soon as possible.

LEE, Peter – 74 Athlone Towers, Lower Bridge Road, Durban North, Natal 4051, R.S.A. was subject to a large measure of hospitalisation when he wrote on 27 March last. He did tell us the nature of the trouble. All old comrades will wish Peter a quick return to good health, something he richly deserves from a life of thinking for, and doing for, other people.

CASTLE, W. C. (Bill) – who may be moving shortly from Flat 1, High Ridge, 84 Ridge Road, Berea, Durban, Natal 4001, R.S.A. and who is very much below par. Bill has been pretty well known south of the Zambesi, having spent years in Rhodesia (as it was). May he soon be restored to a decent level of health and better quality of life.

ELGAR, George and Mona – Flat 2, 63 Castlenau, Barnes, London SE13 9RT are both out of hospital we are glad to report and back home. Surely the best place for them. May they both be returned to full health soon.

RANDALL, F. A. (Fred) – 21 Elm Gardens, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL8 6RX is still confined to hospital at time of going to press. All old comrades and all his many friends require him back on parade as soon as possible, please.

SMITH, B.E M., Major Frank – 1 Yewtree Gardens, Walkville, Newcastle upon Tyne. We regret to learn that he is at present confined in Walkergate Hospital which is bad news for all who remember him. May he show a great improvement and a return to better lifestyle soon.

POWELL, W. L. (Bill) – Dingley Dell, High Trewhiddle, St. Austell, Cornwall suffered a nasty experience when he fell down in the dark during a power-cut and broke his shoulder. Although in our day this might not have excused him from parade, that is to say a "light duties" case, we must be concerned that this old comrade is by now fully recovered and back to good health with a mended part.

HERON, Fred – 45 Cotterhill, Haltonbrook, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 2NL fell prey to shingles prior to Christmas last but is now reported as fully recovered. Such a miserable and demoralising complaint. Please do not get it again, Fred. Former 1/B/Sergeants are supposed to be immune anyway.

HUGHES, Albert (Bert) – 39 Alton Road, Oxton, Birkenhead, Merseyside L45 1UY had a spell in hospital for an operation for the return of movement in his fingers. We look forward to news of his recovery and return to whatever he wants to return to.

GRAY, Mrs. Ann – 2 Balmanno Park, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire. Suffered a nasty accident while on holiday in the Canary Islands from which she sustained a broken wrist and femur. Poor Ann had to be flown home. An altogether traumatic experience and we can but trust her damaged parts are now mended.

WASHINGTON, Mrs. Rene – Flat 2, Elm Court, Brackenwood Close, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 8NH has been far from well we hear from Yorkshire Branch and as at 19 March (date of last dispatch), she had just come out of hospital. May she now be greatly improved and restored to former health and activity.

STEAD, Harry – Last known address (Ed) being 10 Rawfords Avenue, Field Head Estate, Laxton, Howden, Nr. Goole, Yorkshire has been under the

weather according to reports. We trust this is now reversed and Harry is very much improved in health.

REGAN, Tom – Unit 3, 14 Hatfield Street, North Balwyn, Melbourne, Victoria 3104, Australia. We are glad to report that Tom is making good progress from his recent illness and wishes to thank members of Victoria Branch for their good wishes. Sounds as though he will be back on parade by the time everyone reads this.

BRAYBROOKS, Edgar – Mulliondale, Cavan Road, via Yass, New South Wales 2582, Australia. Suffered a nasty accident on a horse from which he sustained a badly fractured pelvis. As at March 1990 he had already spent six weeks in hospital on his back but is now reported to be making slow recovery. All old comrades wish Edgar a full recovery and a full return to active life.

BOND, John – Royal Chelsea Hospital, London SW3 has not been all that well, we understand, but is now improved. We hope this Sergeant – Chelsea Pensioner and former mounted man in the Force is back on parade and free of all malevolent malfunctions.

LEADBETTER, A. V. (Arch) – 48a Kingslangley Road, Greenwich, New South Wales 2965, Australia is reported to have been in and out of hospital too frequently of late. When at home he continues to receive medical treatment. It is the united wish of all old comrades that he gets very much better and as quickly as possible which is doubtless what he would wish for himself.

McKEOWN, W. (Mac) – 117 Coach Road Estate, Usworth, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE37 2EN is receiving care and attention in Sunderland Royal Infirmary where he is making good recovery after an operation. This information was kindly supplied by his son Alan to whom we are indebted. All old friends will wish Mac a speedy recovery.

EVERARD, Douglas – who lives in Staffordshire, has been in hospital but as at 13 March last was out again. We are grateful to Malcolm Slay for this information and can but hope that Douglas is now very much better.

EXCEL, Sid – 8 Glen Rise, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0AW has spent six months excused duties because of a severe heart attack. When he wrote in March apologising for delay in one or two secretarial matters, we learned for the first time how matters lay. Everyone will surely wish former Sergeant 838 a great improvement and a bonny future.

FISHER, Mrs. E. M. (Peggy) – 41 Fairlawns, Malden Road, Wallington, Surrey SM6 8BG was a casualty in the February storm and while out walking was blown against a metal electricity junction box which resulted in a broken right arm, a black eye and an injury to her lower lip cause by teeth. She is now described as shaken but not stirred and is recovering well.

NEW MEMBERS

51721 JARMAIN, F., ex-B/Const. 544 – 6 Spencer Road, Thornhill, Southampton, Hampshire SO2 6QX.

5173 BOLTON, W., ex-B/Const. 1092 – 273 Pharmacy Avenue, Apt. 910, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada MIL 3E9.

5174 WONHAM, J. H., ex-B/M/Sgt. 293 – Camelot, 4/50 Thelma Street, Toowoon Bay, New South Wales 2261, Australia.

5175 BOURNE, L., ex-B/Const 4180 – Ivy Cottage Farm, Elkstone, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL53 9PD.

5176 EDWARDS, K., ex-B/Const. 3627 – 62 Rocky Lane, Childwall, Liverpool, Merseyside L16 1JD.

REJOINING MEMBERS

1466 MULVIHILL, C. C., ex-B/Const 3243 – 25 Sunnyside Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1HU.

3915 ARRIGONIE, H. A., ex-B/Sgt. 137 – Rambla Dos, Apartamento 401, Bajamer, Tenerife, Canary Islands.

1179 CAMPANY, D. S., ex-B/Const. 1492 – 26 Warren Road, Purley, Surrey CR8 1AA.

3983 CASS, J. W., ex-B/Sgt. 480 – 37 Rectory Lane, Ashtead, Surrey KT21 2BA.

4390 MOLLOY, K., ex-B/Const. 18 – 92 Finian Park, Shannon, Co. Claire, Irish Republic.

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER

A.164 CORK. J. H., (son of 2/B/Sgt. 895 N. F. York, deceased – buried in Haifa) 67 Roman Way, Bourton on the Water, Gloucestershire GL54 2HD.

NEW DONOR MEMBERS

D.205 AWAD DUQMAQ, Mr. J. Y. – Beit Jala, P.O. Box 89, West Bank, Israel.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

ASHTON, Rev. Father R., 30 Southend Road, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex SS17 0PF (from Basildon, Essex).

BARTON, P. R., 6 Marvic Court, Gus Brown Road, Warner Beach, Natal 4125, R.S.A. (P.O.B. 2563, Edenburg 2128).

CORCORAN, L. A., 10 Milford Grove, Offerton Fold, Stockport, Greater Manchester SK2 5TN (from Celtic Street, Stockport).

HOLLOWAY, Mrs. E., The Lodge, 22 Spicer Road, Exeter, Devon EX1 1SY (from Church Street, Heavitree, Essex).

FIELD, Mrs. H., Nutthall Farm, The Vale, Frostenden, Beccles, Suffolk (from Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire).

GUEST, G. O., 22 Recreation Avenue, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 3JX (from Ilford, Essex).

HAWLEY, J. C., A14, Los Claveles, San Marcos, Icod de los Vinos, Tenerife, Canary Islands (from Blackpool).

HORNE, Miss R., 2035 Westwood, 105 Los Angeles, California 90025, U.S.A. (from Beverley Hills, California).

LEADER, R. F., 22 Parry Drive, Rustington, West Sussex BN16 (postcode incomplete) (from c/o National Westminster Bank PLC, 224 Kings Road, London SW3).

MORRIS, J. F., 76 Campden Road, South Croydon, Surrrey CR2 7EP (from Hathaway Road, West Croydon).

WOODS, Mrs. H., 421 Fairview Drive, Brantford, Ontario, Canada N3R 5W2 (from Westbrier Knoll, Brierwood Village, Brantford).

RICH, C. A., 12 Dixson Fold, Old Ratton, Norwich, Norfolk NR6 7QD (from Neville Road, Sprowston, Norwich).

TRACERS

A further list of members who have gone off our map as shown below. Anyone with information please contact the General Secretary:–

BARBER, A. H. Last known address: c/o Box 318, Manuka, A.C.T., Australia.

BARNES, A. M., c/o Durabloc, P.O. Box 44, Lilingwe, Malawi.

BARRETT, H. A. B., 2050 Lakeshore Road, Sarnia, Ontario, Canada.

BARROW, J. A., 21 Denbeigh Heights, Wykebeck Valley Road, Leeds, West Yorkshire.

CORCORAN, L. A., 36 Celtic Street, Stockport, Greater Manchester. (See entry in changes of address.)

Bill Taylor of 136 Stein Road, Southbourne, Emsworth, Hampshire PO10 8LT seeks details of service of Edward Jobson Huggan (born 28.5.1906) who, following service in The Green Howards (Alexandria, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment), joined the Palestine Police. Date and number are not known, although it does sound as though the later 1930s is the likely time of joining. This is old comrade is now deceased but the information is sought by his daughter, who is Mrs. Schubert, 104 Stein Road, Southbourne, Emsworth, Hampshire – just a few doors from Bill Taylor. Her telephone number is:– Emsworth 375462. For that matter, we would like to know too, so please inform this editor as well.

MOVEMENTS AND THREATS OF MOVEMENTS

It is to be hoped that Moya Dunn, widow of the lately lamented Frank Dunn, will be visiting Europe from Australia where she lives. A brace of dicky birds

tweeted in our ears that Moya will be staying with Jean Anderson in Thurso and may, of course, take the opportunity of visiting other parts of Scotland. This must be regarded as "Good News No. 1".

"Good News No. 2" is a similar item of news that W. C. (Bill) Anderson – former 428 in Palestine, may also be touring Europe from Australia before the year is out. Apart from many ports of call with various P.P. that he might hope to make, one can almost guess there will be gravitational pull to his old pal "Angus" Wilson. Why not, we say, why not!

Bill Anderson, Secretary of London Branch, is going on temporary transfer to overseas for about four months this summer and may look in on obscure and far flung places. Our General Secretary will be away even longer and apart from being a roving ambassador for the rest of us, will be following what is best described as "a round the world trip". Perth in Western Australia is on the inspection list, as is a gradual movement eastwards to Sydney and then New Zealand before moving northwards into Asia. No need to whitewash everything. No need to get out the red carpet. No need to produce Station Books for critical eyes. A friendly beer will do.

SOUKH NEWS

I have nothing specific in terms of extra stock items at this moment, but I do urge members, once again, to remember that when ordering by post, the postage of items is a cost factor and is sometimes forgotten. We have done our best to quote postage/packing rates where appropriate against items shown in the stock list, so please remember to add that amount when writing your cheque. We appreciate there may be difficulty in translating currencies from overseas customers and there is also the problems of exchange rates. Do the best you can.

Anyone with ideas of possible future items to put into stock can always write to me – Len Sexton (address scattered about in each issue of the newsletter – Ed). Even if we end up saying "not practicable", we will always give every idea serious consideration. Our main problem being to order small amounts at reasonable cost. We cannot have Association monies tied up for years in items that do not shift easily.

Len Sexton
(Ed Dukkanji)

Ladies: Unfortunately, the Spur Brooches were not supplied due to the die breaking. I shall endeavour to obtain a supply from another contractor – so please bear with me and do not order until seen in a later edition of Soukh News.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1990 July 29th	East Anglia Branch LUNCHEON	Caistor Country Club Norwich
August 25th	Scottish Branch ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE	The City Mills Hotel Perth
September 22nd/23rd	South Eastern Counties Branch ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE and Long Weekend	Coniston Hotel Sittingbourne
October 6th	ASSOCIATION A.G.M. 3.15 p.m.	The Cardinal Westminster SW1
October 6th	ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION DINNER 6.30 p.m.	Conference Centre Westminster SW1
October 7th	CENOTAPH PARADE and SERVICE 10.30 a.m.	Whitehall London SW1
October 27th	South Midlands Branch ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE	Blunsdon House Hotel Blunsdon, Nr. Swindon
December 8th	Southern and Western Counties Branch ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE	Courtlands Hotel Bournemouth

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THE SOUKH

Every Member of the P.P.O.C.A. is expected to have in his possession, for wear on appropriate occasions, some distinctive article or articles of utility or sartorial adornment which will identify him as having served with the finest body of men the Colonial Service has ever known – the Palestine Police.

The following articles, AVAILABLE ONLY TO PAID-UP MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION, may be obtained at the prices stated. As we have no staff to deal with credit sales or C.O.D., please send remittance with order. Members are requested to include in the remittance sufficient to cover postage, by surface mail or air-mail, whichever mode of despatch they prefer. Please check latest newsletter for prices.

THIS LIST CANCELS ALL LISTS PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED

			U.K. post/ packing
Ties, all silk 3¼″ × 54″		£5.70	30p
Ties, polyester		£3.50	30p
Cravats, mens		£6.50	35p
Blazer Badges, silver-wire		£6.50	35p
Wall Plaques, hand-painted		£12.00	90p
Car Badges (radiator fitting)		£11.00	90p
Lapel Badges, silver and enamel		£1.50	30p
Car Key-Rings with O.C.A. crest (leather holder)		£1.75	35p
Blazer Buttons, large		£1.10	20p
Blazer Buttons, small		£1.10	20p
Windscreen Stickers, O.C.A. crest		30p	20p
Wool Scarves, association colours		£11.00	90p
Tea spoons, chrome		£4.25	35p
Cuff links (like cap badge)		£6.25	35p
Tie clips (like cap badge)		£3.15	35p
Lapel badges (like cap badge)		£2.15	30p
Ladies' silk square		£16.00	35p
Cassette, The Holy City and Edited address of The President (taken from A.R.D. 1984)		£2.50	40p
Christmas Cards with P.P. motif		£1.10 for 5	30p
Navy blue sweaters with white P.P. motif (badge) (sizes 34, 38) lamb's wool	cost	£15.00	£1.30
Navy blue sweaters with white P.P. only motif (sizes 40,42,44,46) acrylic		£13.50	£1.30
White sweaters with blue P.P. only motif (sizes 38,40,42,44) acrylic Ideal for the ladies		£13.50	£1.30
White pilot shirts Short sleeves – blue P.P. motif (sizes M, L, XL)		£11.00	75p
6 oz. hip flasks White P.P. motif		£13.00	90p
4 oz. hip flasks White P.P. motif		£12.00	75p

N.B. – Orders for remittances for the above articles should be sent to the Soukh Master who is Len Sexton, Flat 42, Barbara Brosnan Court, 46 Grove End Road, St. John's Wood, London NW8 9NP. Telephone: 071-289 0041. Cheques and postal orders to be made out to the P.P.O.C.A.

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